



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,647

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32-PAGE NEWS SECTION



## Cometh the hour, cometh the boy?

WITH NINE PAGES OF SPORT

24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW



## Babes will be babes

FRIDAY REVIEW FRONT



## When the stars divide

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# Beckett pledges cut in power bills

CONSUMERS COULD see their electricity bills fall by more than 10 per cent over the next two years, but 5,000 miners whose jobs were at risk were told yesterday that they will have to compete to survive.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, gave no guarantees to the miners that their jobs would be safe after announcing a package of proposals designed to allow the coal industry to compete fairly with gas and nuclear power in the supply of electricity.

The proposals bought a breathing space for the coal

By COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

communities, who were threatened with the loss of thousands of jobs and the closure of up to eight pits if their contracts with the big power generators were not renewed next month. "I am in no doubt that the proposals we are announcing today and the way in which we are unrigging the market does give a real space for coal," Mrs Beckett told MPs.

The package failed, however, to satisfy the "Old Labour" MPs from the coalfield com-

munities led by Tony Benn and Dennis Skinner. And it disappointed the electricity industry, which will be forced into some painful restructuring to give coal the chance to survive against other energy sources.

The main points of the announcement were: pressing the major generators, National Power and PowerGen, to sell their coal-fired plant; a halt to most new gas-power stations to prevent the "dash for gas"; coal-fired generators to fit desulphurisation equipment to cut down emissions so that they meet the Government's

"green" targets; reform of the electricity "pool" trading system which allegedly is geared against coal; and a temporary moratorium on all new power station consents until 20 July to allow consultation on the plans.

John Redwood, the Tory trade and industry spokesman, last night dismissed the package as "empty" and warned that jobs could still be lost to foreign imports, if the power generators switched to more coal.

Mrs Beckett accused the Tories of hypocrisy. If their policies had been followed, she said: "The coal industry would

have disappeared and I don't think they would have given tuppence."

The measures were welcomed by a broad alliance of Labour MPs from modernisers to traditional backbenchers, who had campaigned for the coalfield communities to be protected. More help could be targeted at the pit villages after the mid-July comprehensive spending review.

The package fell short of the direct intervention that was originally planned by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, to guarantee the coal in-

dustry a market. The Prime Minister had ordered the plans to be rewritten because they were too "Old Labour" and interventionist. Mrs Beckett told MPs there would be no state subsidies for coal.

Mr Robinson had proposed a moratorium on all new gas-power plans, but Downing Street ordered a compromise because of fears of legal challenges by the power generators.

Those fears were confirmed in Mrs Beckett's statement which said that Professor Stephen Littlechild, the Director-General of Electricity Sup-

ply, "has reservations about restrictions on consents" for new gas plants but "recognises the Government's responsibility for energy policy, including diversity issues".

With the Chancellor sitting by her side to demonstrate his support for her proposals, Mrs Beckett made it clear there could be no guarantees for failing pits. But she claimed that changing the market, so that it was no longer rigged against coal, would give them the chance to survive. "A coal industry that is able to achieve its own competitive advantage

should make its own way fairly in the market place," she told MPs.

DTI officials privately admitted that the number of jobs to be rescued in the coal industry will depend on Richard Budge, the owner of RJB Mining, who plunged the Government into crisis at Christmas by warning that pits would have to close unless ministers intervened. Mr Budge will now have to win fresh contracts for coal from the threatened pits by convincing the power generators that they can buy coal more cheaply than gas.

## Storm over fox cubs reared by hunt

By KIM SENGUPTA

ONE OF the country's most prestigious fox hunts is under investigation after police and inspectors from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals discovered and rescued fox cubs trapped in a cage on the hunt's land.

It is believed to be the first time that photographic evidence has been obtained of the alleged practice of capturing foxes to be used for hunting. Animal rights activists say this undermines the argument of blood sport supporters that hunting is essentially a form of pest control.

The pair of three-month-old cubs were found in a muddy trap on land owned by the Sington Hunt on the fringe of the North Yorkshire Moors after an undercover operation by the League Against Cruel Sports.

Carcasses of a chicken and a lamb were found nearby. Animal activists say the plan was to use the foxes for hunting when the cubbing season began in the autumn.

Two employees of the hunt, a kennel huntsman and a terrier man were taken by police to the site of the trap yesterday morning. Animal welfare activists described the discovery of the trap as a major blow against blood sports.

They claim further investigations will reveal that this was not an isolated example, and that capturing and then using foxes for "spontaneous hunting" was widespread.

Last night, neither Adam Waugh nor Andrew Osborne, the current masters, were available for comment.

Michael Foster, the Labour MP for Worcester whose Private Member's Bill on hunting with dogs reignited the debate over field sports, said last night: "This is evidence that fox-hunting is about sport, human beings gaining pleasure from cruelty to animals. It is not about pest control."



President Bill Clinton and the First Lady receive an emperor's welcome in Xian, the former Imperial capital, yesterday at the start of their nine-day state visit to China. Some 800 actors danced to the beat of giant drums at the pageant. In his speech, the US President spoke of respect for freedom. Rick Wilking/Reuters

## Clinton sticks to his own script

By TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

PRESIDENT CLINTON arrived in China last night to a spectacularly stage-managed imperial welcome, but immediately delivered a pointed reminder that he will stick to his own script while on the mainland.

Against the backdrop of the historic city of Xian, once the start of the old "Silk Road" linking East and West, he declared: "A new day is dawning for the Chinese people." His carefully crafted speech was pitched both at his sensitive mainland hosts and American critics of his visit.

"Respect for the worth, the dignity, the potential and the freedom of every citizen, is a vital source of America's



strength and success," he said. "A commitment to providing all human beings the opportunity to develop their full potential is vital to the strength and success of the 'new China' as well."

For the time being, new China was sticking to some of its well-entrenched old ways. Within hours of Air Force One touching down in Xian, the US had expressed disquiet to the Chinese authorities over reports of dissidents being taken into custody by police in Xian and elsewhere in China.

Tonight, Mr Clinton flies to the Chinese capital for a summit meeting tomorrow with President Jiang Zemin, and then travels on to Shanghai, Guilin, and Hong Kong.

Clinton's imperial style, page 12

## Doctors call for end of kidney sale ban

THE BAN on allowing people to sell their kidneys for transplant should be lifted to overcome the world-wide shortage of organ donors, an international group of experts in medical ethics has concluded.

Objections to the sale of the organs are based on "feelings of outrage and disgust" rather than on rational assessment of the risks and benefits.

Banning the sale of the organs restricts their supply,

By JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

causing much suffering and death, and denies financial benefits to people who are often poor and in desperate need, they say.

The International Forum for Transplant Ethics has reopened one of the most controversial issues in medicine by suggesting that a market in human organs could be established.

They say they are not arguing for an unfettered market, but believe the trade could be carefully regulated by independent trusts, which would fix charges and handle accounts.

In 1990 the UK General Medical Council struck off two doctors involved in what became known as the "kidneys-for-sale" scandal. Impoverished young Turkish men had been enticed to Britain and paid around £2,000 for their kidneys, al-

though they claimed they did not know what was happening to them. The case, one of the most notorious to be heard by the GMC, exposed what many saw as the seamy side of medicine.

That view has now been dismissed by the eight member forum, who argue that feelings of repugnance at the idea of selling organs "cannot justify removing the only hope of the destitute and dying".

The group includes Ian Kennedy, professor of medical ethics at University College, London, recently announced as chairman of the forthcoming public inquiry into the Bristol heart surgery disaster, and Professor Raymond Hoffenberg, former president of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Writing in the *Lancet*, they say the commonest objection to kidney selling - a person can live a normal life with only one

functioning kidney - is that it exploits the poor who need protection from the greedy rich.

Against this, they say the operation is low risk and the lot of people whose only means of raising money is to sell their kidneys cannot be improved by removing "the best option that poverty has left".

Potential vendors too uneducated or ignorant to understand what is involved should be counselled.

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**Robert Fisk reports  
from Pristina, page 15**



# This fox was reared by a Yorkshire hunt for one purpose. To be killed for pleasure

BY KIM SENGUPTA

THESE ARE the frightened eyes of a three-month-old fox cub staring through the bars of a tiny cage where it could barely stand up on the floor of sliding road. They were to be raised, fed, watered, cared for even, before being released in front of a pack of baying hounds and torn to pieces.

The RSPCA has now started an investigation to find out who was responsible for trapping and keeping a pair of cubs in filthy conditions. Prosecutions for cruelty could follow. But for animal rights activists, the crucial factor is that the discovery was made on land owned by a hunt.

For years, groups such as the League Against Cruel Sports and the RSPCA have heard reports of foxes being caught and kept in captivity to be "spontaneously" hunted. The practice, if proved, would fatally undermine the field sports arguments that the main reason for fox hunting is pest control.

The hunts have denied they do this. Even the creation of artificial earths, used to encourage foxes to settle and breed in a hunting area, was, said Peter Atkinson of the British Fields Sports Society, "very much a legacy of the past".

Anti-hunt activists, including the League Against Cruel Sports, have countered with lists of hunts which they claim are using artificial earths to breed foxes to kill. Among those named were the Beaufort Hunt, a favourite of Prince Charles, and the Thurlow Hunt in East Anglia, headed by the food millionaire Edmund Vestey, a chairman of the Masters of the Fox Hounds Association.

But the activists admit that what had been lacking had been irrefutable photographic evidence. Then, last week, the League Against Cruel Sports received a call which promised to provide that elusive proof. The information came from animal rights sympathisers in North Yorkshire. They had stumbled across what appeared to be a baited trap on a piece of land called Muscoates



A fox cub cowers in a trap on land owned by the Sinnington Hunt in North Yorkshire

Whin. And that land was owned by the Sinnington Hunt.

The League put into practice a plan it had drawn up for exactly this situation. A local representative contacted the people providing the information, while at the same time an undercover operator was dispatched from London. The aim was to get on film the evidence

which would prove for the first time the practice of trapping foxes by hunts.

The 45-year-old undercover operator has been working for the League for 27 years, and has a record of exposing animal cruelty. He very much looks the part of a country man, with clothes, demeanour and apparent views which would

blend in with hunt supporters in their pubs and clubs. And that is where he gathers information. He does not want his identity revealed. According to the league, half a dozen of his colleagues have been attacked by country sport followers.

The undercover man travelled up to North Yorkshire earlier this week. He mixed

with the locals and was taken to the spot where the trap was concealed. The foxes were there, along with some liver used to feed them, and a sheep carcass left nearby.

The League's aim was to witness and film not just the foxes which had been caught, but also the people who had caught them. However, despite a pro-

longed watch, this did not happen. There was also a danger that the agent might get discovered. He said last night: "We decided the thing to do was to carry out our filming. We had enough evidence, and to wait longer could have been counter-productive. The video camera is the best weapon against this kind of thing, it

brings home to people just what kind of cruelty underpins the so-called glamour of hunting, the stirrup cups and the fancy coats.

"I think a lot of those who take part in hunting will feel very uneasy if they can only see what takes place to provide them with their sport."

The sight of the cubs was

terrible. I have been doing this kind of work for 27 years now, but I was very, very shocked.

"They were a pitiful sight, kept in disgraceful conditions, and very, very frightened. I know that hunting people say when artificial earths are created they should be kept dry, otherwise the animals will suffer and become sick. No such attempt had been made here. The ground was muddy and wet, and the cage was absolutely tiny."

After getting the footage, the RSPCA was alerted and they in turn contacted the police. Yesterday morning an officer from Helmsley police station accompanied RSPCA inspectors when they called on the Sinnington Hunt. The masters of the hunt could not be found, but a kennel huntsman and a terrier man were taken to the trap at Muscoates Whin.

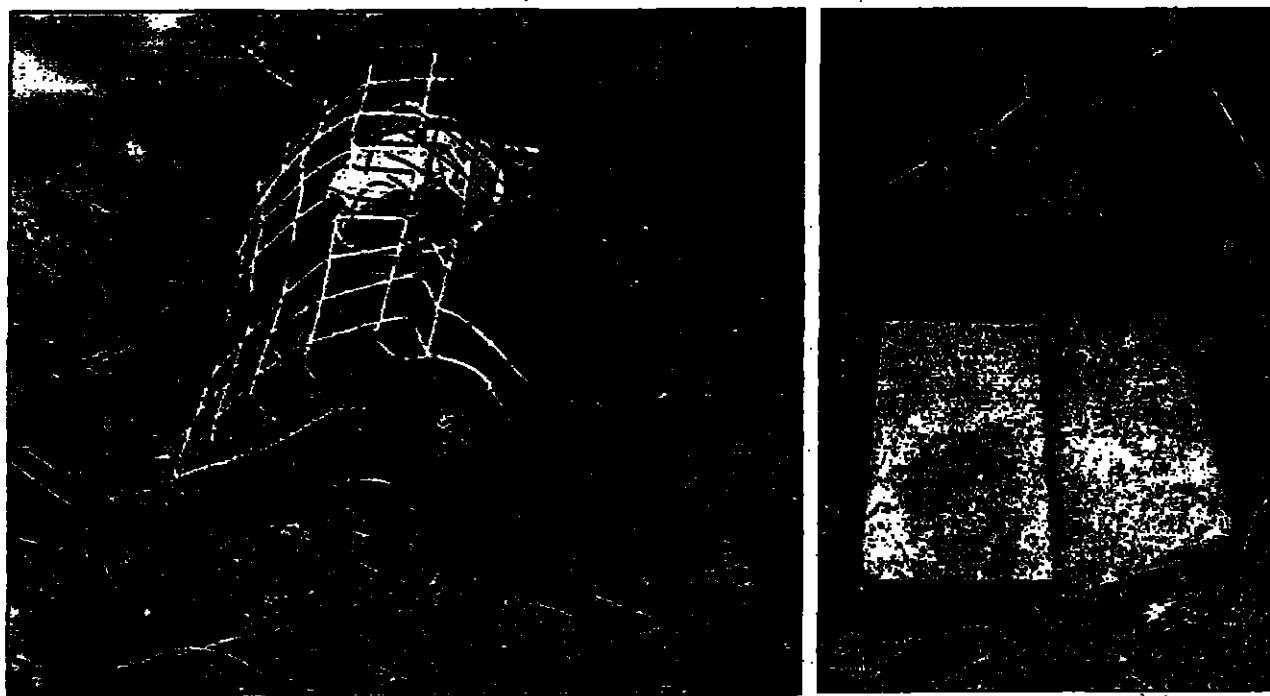
Drainage rods had to be used to get the foxes out. They were taken to a vet and found to be suffering from mange. After treatment they would be taken to an animal sanctuary, and released in an area where there is no hunting.

In *Baily's Hunting Directory*, the Sinnington Hunt is described as having "several vale coverts which seldom fail to hold a fox". The League's chief officer, Graham Sirl said: "They have long boasted about their ability to find foxes for their followers to kill, and now we think we know how they do it. We have long suspected that hunts do this."

Despite that view, it is yet to be proved that the hunt's organisers knew or were responsible for what happened. That is now the subject of the RSPCA inquiry.

Those responsible may face animal cruelty charges both under Wild Mammals Protection Act of 1966 and, because the cubs had been held captive, under the Protection of Animals Act of 1911, which relates to domesticated animals or those in captivity.

A hunt spokeswoman said she was not aware of the discovery of the trap and did not wish to say anything more.



Pictured left, a fox is trapped beneath a wire cage, while, right, paving slabs block the entrance to a tunnel.

## Centuries-old hunt rides on through the storms of protest

BY LOUISE JURY

THE SINNINGTON Hunt is one of the oldest in Britain, with more than a hundred members regularly riding out on the 360 square miles it covers on the fringe of the North Yorkshire Moors.

Dating back to about 1680, when the then Duke of Buckingham was master, the hunt meets twice a week during the season. On Wednesdays the huntsmen tend to ride out on the low flatlands of the region, with the highlands reserved for Saturdays.

The hunt, which has 50 hounds, has a new Master, Adam Waugh, reputedly a relation of the literary Waugh, who was appointed this year, alongside Master Andrew Osborne.

Three years ago, the Sinnington Hunt was at the centre of controversy when it applied for a £400 grant from Ryedale District Council to improve woodland on hunt land near Pickering, supposedly to provide better cover for foxes. Some of the land was ancient



woodland, which fell into disuse until it was revived as fox cover by the hunt during the last century.

But the application was eventually rejected because members felt it would have been seen as support for the sport. The council decided that the hunt should be self-supporting.

In the early 1990s, the hunt sparked another row when it sought permission to build a bridge over a moorland stream which would have enabled the hunt to cut off a favourite escape route for foxes. For years from the 1940s, the Countess of Feversham was a



The Sinnington Hunt in the field

dominant figure in the fortunes of the Sinnington Hunt.

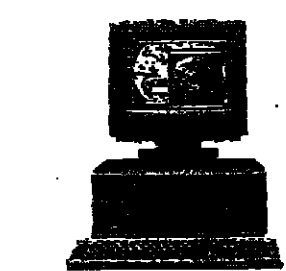
As Master of the Hunt with her husband, the 3rd Earl of Feversham, she staged an annual ball at the family home, Duncombe Park, to raise funds for the hunt, a tradition re-

vived in the mid-Nineties.

The Countess always rode side-saddle, a pose captured by the painter Raoul Millais in the 1950s. Even in old age, Lady Feversham continued to follow the hunt's progress in the field by car.

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COMPAQ

# Aids experts denounce vaccine trial

By STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

A LARGE-SCALE trial of an Aids vaccine has been denounced by leading British scientists as a waste of time and money because few, if any, of the 5,000 volunteers will benefit.

The trial, which began this week, will result in people at risk of Aids in 30 American cities being injected with a prototype vaccine made from a synthetic protein designed to mimic the outer coating of HIV.

VaxGen, a private biotechnology company based in San Francisco, has received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration to go ahead with the phase three trial, which is usually the last

stage before going on sale. It is the first of more than 40 Aids vaccine trials to get this far in the testing procedure. It will be given to half of the volunteers, who are all considered at risk of HIV infection. The other half will be given a harmless placebo.

Neither the scientists nor the volunteers will know who has been given the vaccine and who has the placebo until the end of the 30-month experiment, when the infection rates of the two groups will be compared to see if the vaccine has prevented HIV transmission.

VaxGen said its vaccine is modelled on an HIV protein called gp120. This protein has been of interest to Aids researchers for nearly 15 years because of the possibility of it being used to make vaccines that will stimulate the body's immune defences to attack HIV.

Scientists this month completed the first detailed, three-dimensional images of the structure of gp120. However, the new findings suggest that the VaxGen vaccine will be unable to stimulate an effective immune response in the volunteers because it is too dissimilar to natural gp120.

Andrew McMichael, professor of immunology at Oxford University and one of Britain's leading experts in Aids vaccine research, said: "I think the leading immunologists and virologists in the field are pretty unanimous in their view. The likelihood that [the vaccine] is not going to do anything is quite high."

Professor McMichael said the reasons why the trial is going ahead are more to do with "business and politics" than with science.

The vaccine is supposed to work by stimulating a patient's antibodies to attack the gp120 protein on HIV. However, the natural protein and the synthetic vaccine are too different for this to work with any great effect, he said.

"On theoretical grounds the chances are low. But preliminary trials earlier this year suggested that some vaccinated people still became infected. So really there was quite good negative evidence that this was not an effective vaccine," he said.

The reservations about vaccines based on gp120 are shared by dozens of American Aids specialists who recently signed a letter to the journal *Science* supporting a decision not to begin trials until problems with the vaccine's potency can be resolved.

Attempts to develop an Aids vaccine have met with problems because of the unique nature of HIV. It mutates rapidly, even within one person, so evading the best efforts of a vaccine to stimulate effective immunity.

Albert Sabin, who pioneered the development of a polio vaccine, warned just before he died in 1993 that it would be virtually impossible for any Aids vaccine to work. The virus he said was also able to escape the immune defences by infecting the cells that are sent to destroy it.



A festival-goer puts the finishing touches to her make-up outside her tent at Glastonbury '98 in Somerset.

Tim Cuff



"She sounds a little rough, Mrs. Tope"

## Billy-Jo's breath 'spattered blood'

TINY SPOTS of blood found on clothes worn by Sion Jenkins could have been created as his foster daughter, Billie-Jo, breathed over him when he found her bludgeoned body, a court was told yesterday.

Bloodspots caused by Billie-Jo Jenkins breathing out would look "very similar" to those caused by "impact spatter" created as she was being hit by her killer, forensic expert Duncan McKirdy told a jury at Lewes Crown Court.

Sion Jenkins, 40, denies murdering 13-year-old Billie-Jo at their home in Hastings, East Sussex on 15 February last year.

The prosecution alleges that 158 spots found on Mr Jenkins's jacket and trousers were created in a "blood mist" of impact spatter as he repeatedly struck Billie-Jo about the head with an 18-inch metal tent spike.

Mr McKirdy agreed with Camden Pratt QC, prosecuting, that the blood spots could have been caused by impact spatter.

"I have considered whether they could have got there as a result of her exhaling droplets of blood from the nose or whether this is a combination of both blood splattering and exhaling. I cannot say."

Mr McKirdy agreed that it was "unlikely" that the blood spots could have been caused by a bubble of blood bursting from within Billie-Jo's nostril.

### IN BRIEF

#### Boy, 12, charged with murdering 9-year-old

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy appeared in a court yesterday charged with murdering a nine-year-old boy.

The accused, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was remanded in custody after making a private appearance at Hamilton Sheriff Court. The charge is in connection with the death of Charles Fall, from Uddingston, who was found with severe burns on 3 June. He died 15 days later.

#### Social worker 'raped girl'

A SOCIAL worker raped one vulnerable 14-year-old girl and indecently assaulted others while they were in his care, a court was told yesterday. Andrew Wilkinson, 34, abused his position of trust at a children's home where he worked in Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Leeds Crown Court was told that he went into their bedrooms at night and kissed and touched them. He denies eight charges of indecent assault and one of rape. The case continues.

#### Butcher 'no Machiavelli'

BUTCHER John Barr, whose shop was implicated in a food poisoning outbreak that killed up to 21 elderly people, was no "Machiavellian" figure, his lawyer said yesterday.

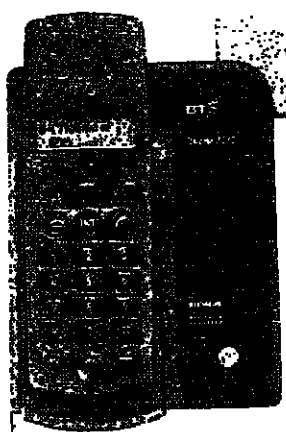
Advocate John Thomson also apologised for the outbreak on Mr Barr's behalf in his closing submission to the inquiry in Motherwell. The findings will be delivered next month.

#### Autistic man's detention justified

HOSPITAL DOCTORS were legally entitled to detain "informally" a 48-year-old autistic man who lacked the ability "to consent or dissent" to treatment, the House of Lords ruled yesterday. In a judgment affecting thousands of patients admitted to hospital on an "informal" basis, five Law Lords unanimously agreed that the decision in Mr L's case was justified by "necessity".

#### Reader borrows book for 65 years

A PENSIONER took advantage of a library's fines amnesty to return a volume he had been trying to finish for 65 years. The man borrowed Robert Louis Stephenson's *Kidnapped* in 1933, from Urmston Library in Manchester, and claimed he had been trying to finish it ever since. Anne Slater, principal library assistant, said: "Without the amnesty he would have owed us £1,200."



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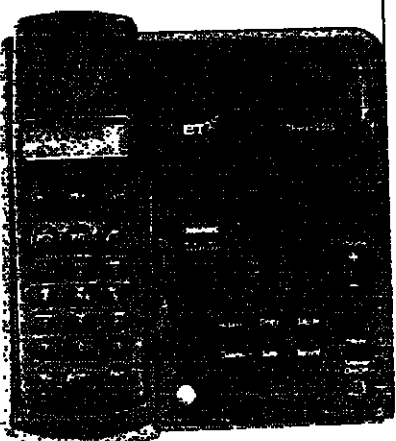
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# Docklands bomber free in two years

AN IRA terrorist, who was jailed for 25 years yesterday for helping carry out the Docklands bombing, is only expected to serve about two years behind bars.

James McArdle, 29, who was convicted for his "crucial role" in the massive explosion in February 1996 that killed two, injured dozens, and caused £150m of damage in east London, is likely to benefit from the Good Friday peace agreement.

Official sources have indicated that people convicted

BY JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

since the agreement will probably have to spend no more than three years in jail.

Once the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill, currently going through Parliament, is passed, paramilitary prisoners held in the province will be eligible for release after two years.

McArdle, who has shown no remorse for his actions, would have to meet specific condi-

tions, including undertaking not to support the IRA or carry out further acts of terrorism.

Unionist politicians were divided last night on the prospect of McArdle being freed in two years. Democratic Unionists, opposed to the peace deal, were outraged, but Ken Maginnis, security spokesman for the Ulster Unionists, who signed up to the agreement, said: "There is a bigger picture than James McArdle."

In what could be the last big IRA trial, McArdle, a bricklayer

from Crossmaglen, Co Armagh, was convicted at Woolwich Crown Court, east London, on Wednesday of conspiring with others unknown to cause explosions.

But the judge yesterday discharged the jury from returning verdicts on charges that he murdered Imam Bashir and John Jeffries - the two newsagents who died in the blast - because of what John Bevan QC, prosecuting, described as a "clear and flagrant contempt" in the Sun newspa-

per. The two outstanding charges are to lay on the file and are unlikely ever to be retried.

The detonation of a lorry packed with a tonne of explosives, on the evening of 9 February was heralded by a series of "inaccurate and wholly inadequate warnings".

Mr Justice Kay, the trial judge, said he hoped the fact that McArdle was being sentenced at a time when the IRA campaign of terror could be coming to an end may offer a "crumb of comfort to those

who suffered so much as a result of your actions".

He went on: "But nothing can realistically comfort the families of the two men who died and the many others who were injured and whose lives were marred by the dreadful explosion."

McArdle, although not very intelligent, was considered a competent, skilled, and trusted member of the bombing team to take the lorry packed with explosives from Northern Ireland to London.

On the trip the IRA unit stopped the transporter in which the bomb was hidden in River Road, Barking, East London, so that the bomb-maker could fit the timers and detonator before the final journey.

But the IRA's bomb was not hidden while on the wasteland at River Road by another lorry driver, Arthur Ward. Two days after the bombing, police published a drawing of the lorry and Mr Ward telephoned the police.

Hidden inside the tyre the IRA team had dumped were

tachographs which charted the vehicle's journey from Belfast via ferry to Stranraer, then to Carlisle and on to London.

There was also a magazine bearing McArdle's thumbprint. Police also discovered two other thumb prints - one on an ashtray and another on a ferry ticket stub.

But McArdle - by now known to officers as the Triple Thumbprint Man - eluded police for 14 months until he was identified as the owner of the prints.

## TV industry braced for new assault from BSkyB

THE GOVERNMENT played a populist game yesterday by extending the protection of football for viewers of BBC and ITV while confirming it would allow Test match cricket to be bought up by BSkyB.

Broadcasting industry fears will now turn to the likelihood that Rupert Murdoch's Sky channel will try to buy up other television institutions and star names.

Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, rejected proposals from a government-appointed committee to allow World Cup matches other than the final, semi-final and home-nation matches to be bought up by pay-TV channels.

Under the proposals, games like the Iran v USA World Cup match which last week attracted 10 million viewers would only have been available to subscribers to pay channels.

Mr Smith also added the European Championships to the fully protected list. He said: "I have also concluded that many of the matches in the World Cup and European Championships football qualifying tournaments meet the criteria for listing."

"I believe that it is important that crucial ties in these competitions should be available to all viewers and I therefore intend to seek Europe-wide arrangements for protecting free-to-air live broadcasts of crucial matches in these competitions."

The decision on football will come as a blow to BSkyB which relies heavily on football fans for its viewers. According to industry reports, Sky Sports has

BY PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

lost a mammoth 78 per cent of its viewers during June because of the World Cup finals.

England coach Glenn Hoddle expressed his approval for the package. "I'm delighted when the biggest possible audience sees England's vital matches," he said. "Any plans that ensure that happens in the future, I welcome. I know it is what the fans want. So do I."

However, the decision to place Test match cricket on a newly created "B-list" of partially protected events will almost certainly allow cricket coverage to go to the highest television bidder after 50 years on the BBC.

The B-list will mean cricket appearing as highlights or delayed on terrestrial television after being shown first by the owner of the live rights.

Mr Smith said: "I have asked the Independent Television Commission to consider setting a minimum acceptable standard for such secondary coverage, to include some combination of delayed full coverage, highlights and live radio commentary."

Included on the B-list of



Sky recognises the importance of star names like David Jason (left), Cilla Black and Jeremy Paxman if it is to attract big audiences to its entertainment channel



events is Five Nations rugby union matches, golf's Ryder Cup and the cricket World Cup, all of which have been bought up by BSkyB for its Sky Sports channels.

Now that Sky has all of the sports it can get, the fear is that the satellite broadcaster's inflationary buying tactics in the sporting world will now spread to other programme genres.

Elisabeth Murdoch, Sky's general manager, is deter-

mined to turn her general entertainment channel, Sky One, into a serious rival to BBC 1, ITV and Channel 5.

The satellite channel is launching a digital format in September so that it will then be available via cable and traditional analogue satellite.

Once it is in enough homes, Ms Murdoch wants to stop relying on bought-in American shows like *The Simpsons* and *ER*. British audiences are one of the most resistant in the world to foreign programming and Sky knows it needs to attract big British shows and stars.

Ms Murdoch gave warning of her plans two weeks ago. "We've increased our original programming budget by 100 per cent this year," she said. "A broadcaster has to be relevant to the community it serves, you cannot do that if you

rely solely on acquired programming - people may as well go into a video store."

Every time Granada's contract for *Coronation Street* comes up for re-negotiation with the ITV Network a flurry of scare stories appear about it moving to Sky. And it is undoubtedly true that Sky would snap up the soap if it had the

opportunity. Sky has already secured the services of one television institution, the film critic Barry Norman, and has in the past shown interest in Des Lynam and Jeremy Paxman.

Because Sky has managed to find a new way of funding a television business - by subscription rather than advertising, its pockets are deep. It is forecast

to make £290m in profits this year and so will increasingly target the kind of programmes that will help sell its services.

As well as established stars like Cilla Black or David Jason, the channel is likely to have in its sights the kind of performers who bring in the young affluent audiences who are happy to pay for television channels.

It already has a programme development deal with Chris Evans, and others like Harry Enfield, Frank Skinner and David Baddiel, and Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer are likely targets.

Even if Sky cannot attract the stars to its fold, its interest will push up prices for terrestrial broadcasters.

### PAY TELEVISION'S WISH LIST

TV Institutions	For Youth Appeal
David Jason	Nick Berry
Des Lynam	Robson Green
Cilla Black	Harry Enfield
Jeremy Paxman	Skinner & Baddiel
Coronation Street	Reeves & Mortimer
Test Cricket	

## Electricity pylons 'pose health risk'

ELECTRICITY PYLONS and power lines do pose a cancer risk, a heavyweight panel of American experts has concluded. Their decision, announced yesterday, was welcomed by some British experts, but sparked renewed argument over a subject that has lingered on the fringes of scientific proof for 20 years.

After ten days of discussions to consider evidence from studies all over the world, a 28-member panel of the prestigious National Institutes of Health (NIH) voted by 19 to nine that electric fields such as those around power lines should be considered possible human carcinogens. Only one of the nine dissenting panel members thought the evidence was against a link; the other eight said the conflicting evidence left them undecided.

Professor Denis Henshaw, a British scientist who first suggested a possible mechanism by which overhead high-voltage cables could cause cancer, said yesterday that the decision will be important for the 23,000 people in the UK who live within 50 metres of a pylon. "The question becomes one of whether power companies owe a duty of care to people who are affected by them. We should look to countries like Sweden which have a policy of avoidance of putting homes next to pylons."

But Dr Michael Clark, a spokesman for the National Radiological Protection Board, the Government's radiation adviser, said the evidence was not

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

convincing. "We continue to support research in this area, but our view is that there is no firm evidence of a cancer risk."

Last autumn a number of legal cases filed by Britons who live near pylons and have developed cancers were thrown out of court. That decision was based on a US National Research Council report, in which a different panel of scientists evaluated about 500 studies on the health effects of high-voltage power lines and found "no conclusive and consistent evidence" that electric and magnetic fields cause any human disease.

However, in 1996 Professor Henshaw led a team which found that the electric fields emanating from high-voltage power lines concentrate car and industrial fumes into clusters of dangerous gases which increase the risk of cancer. They reported that carcinogenic pollutants were attracted to power lines "like bees round a honey pot".

Alasdair Phillips, director of

consumer watchdog Powerwatch, said the authorities should at least accept that there was "reasonable doubt" over the safety of pylons and take necessary precautions.

"I think we should stop building new housing near electricity pylons and stop putting up the pylons near residential areas," he said.

Professor Henshaw reckons that the "danger zone", in which the electric field is particularly strong, extends about 50 metres from any overhead pylon or unshielded substation. "Two hundred metres is too far away to be worth worrying about," he said. The electric field falls off rapidly with distance: it would be 16 times less at 200 metres than 50 metres. Also, people are not at risk while inside a house, because the fields cannot penetrate building materials.

The National Grid Company, which owns the power lines, said last night: "Other studies have found that there is no likely link between electric fields and human health. Far more studies have found no link than those which have."

### DONALD MACINTYRE

'It would be ironic if the Sun has performed its greatest service to the centre left by helping to weaken the Conservatives'

— THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3 ➔

## Barrister monopoly ended by Irvine

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

THE LORD Chancellor, Lord Irvine, yesterday took action to break the near-monopoly barristers have on appearances in the higher courts.

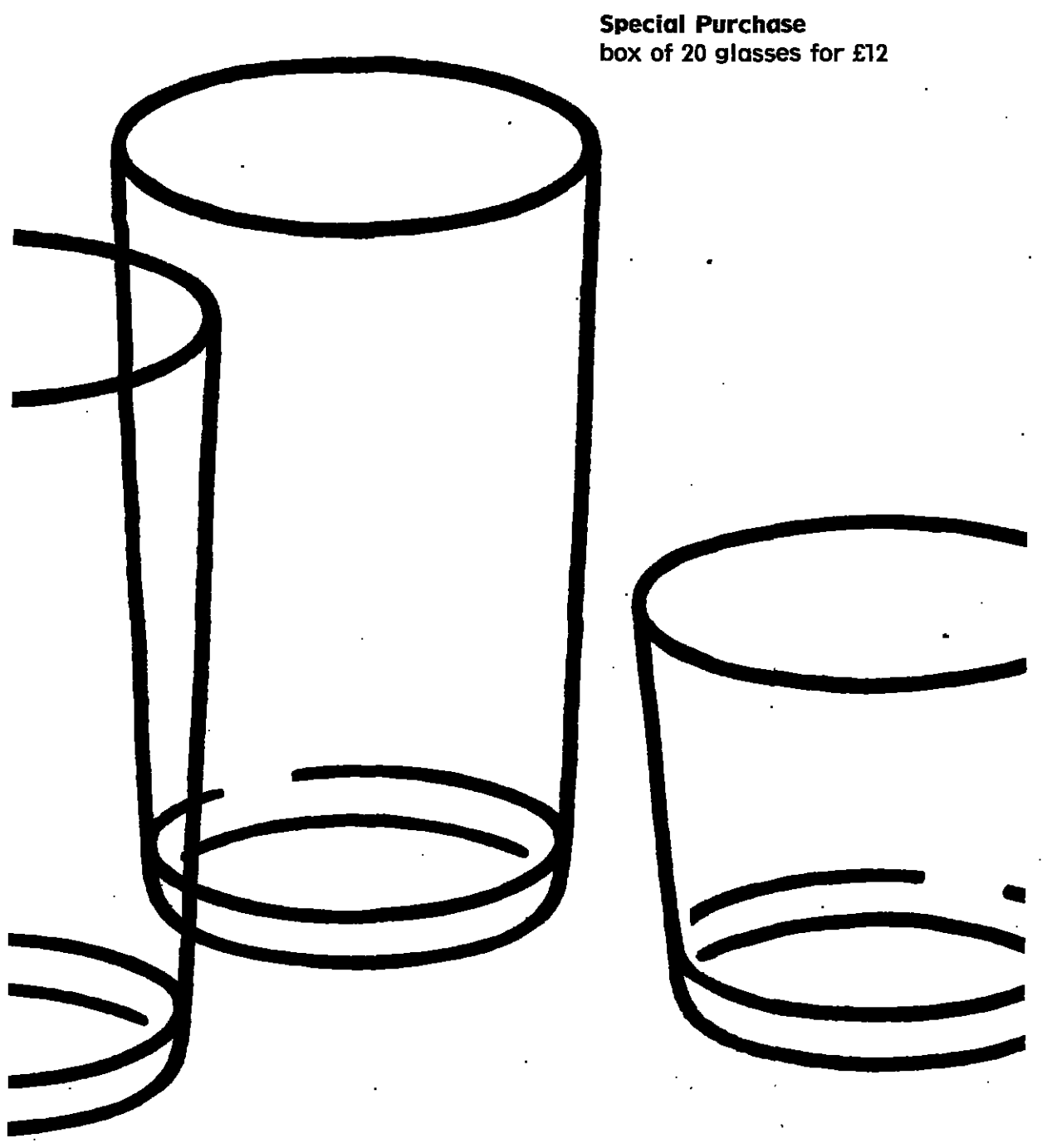
In a move to cut legal costs, Lord Irvine unveiled plans to allow 2,000 lawyers directly employed by the Crown Prosecution Service, the Serious Fraud Office, local councils and companies to argue their own cases in front of judges.

At present, as employed barristers, they have no "rights of audience" in any court above a magistrates' and must hire another barrister to appear on their behalf. The move would boost competition and could force a cut in barristers' fees.

Lord Irvine said the current system was run in the interests of lawyers, not the public, and needed reform.

"Antiquated restrictions on which lawyers can appear in the higher courts, which force people to pay for two lawyers in cases where one would do, can have no place in this system."

The Law Society, representing solicitors in England and Wales, "warmly welcomed" the Lord Chancellor's proposals, which will allow more qualified solicitors to present cases in the higher courts. Just 634 out of 70,000 solicitors have been granted rights of audience in higher courts under current rules, the society said.



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6/HOME NEWS

# Coal industry wins a stay of execution

New energy policy offers little hope for miners in the long-term. By Michael Harrison

WHEN THE history of British coal comes to be written, will yesterday's rescue package be remembered as a turning point in its fortunes or the last gasp of a dying industry?

Brave and defiant though the words were from the pit communities, it is hard to see the measures announced in the Commons by the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, as anything more than the most temporary of reprieves.

Torn between its old Labour instincts to defend an industry that has deep roots within the movement and its new Labour desire to appear pro-competition and pro-consumer, the Government has contrived something that will spare its blushes. But will it save the miners?

The generators will buy some more coal - but at nothing like the levels seen in previous years - in return for which miners will make it more difficult for new competition, in the shape of gas-fired power station operators, to enter the market for the next three years. At the same time, the wholesale electricity mar-



The Government's energy policy will spare it embarrassment, but the measures represent only a temporary reprieve for coal miners

ket, or "pool" as it is known, will be reformed with the aim of creating a more level playing field that does not discriminate against coal.

Those hoping to see the Government guarantee coal a set

share of the energy market, compel the generators to sell some of their coal-fired capacity to rival operators and block all new gas-fired stations will have been disappointed.

After six months of deliberations, numerous drafts and a last-minute reprimand from the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, Mrs Beckett and the other architect of yesterday's statement, the Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, have backed away

from anything that smacks of dirigisme, prescriptive intervention in a free market.

They have also concluded that forcing the generators to dispose of coal-fired plants to others is no guarantee of a

bigger market for coal. Three years ago PowerGen and National Power sold 6,000 megawatts of capacity to Eastern, the former electricity company, since when the market for coal has continued

to contract, while pool prices have not come down. Finally, they were deterred from imposing a blanket ban on gas by the prospect of a judicial review by gas station developers and the negative signals such a move would send out to inward investors.

For these reasons, there are precious few bones on the Government's energy policy; rather it is a statement of intent. Generators will be free to negotiate how much more coal they will buy, and only then provided it is supplied at world competitive prices. They will not be obliged to dispose of plant.

Mrs Beckett and Mr Robinson have concluded that, as Mrs Thatcher once observed, you cannot buck the markets. That market has been moving slowly against coal for 20 years, but in the past five the pace has accelerated at an alarming rate.

In 1992 "old king coal" still commanded two-thirds of the electricity generating market, against a meagre 1.4 per cent for gas. By last year coal's share had dropped to a third, while gas was pushing 30 per cent. The seeds of the coal industry's demise lie not so much in Mrs Thatcher's victory over the miners in the early Eighties but in the manner in which her administration chose to privatise the electricity industry seven years later.

By allowing generation to be sold off as a duopoly between National Power and PowerGen, it gave the regional electricity suppliers every incentive to build their own generating capacity so as not to be held to

FUEL USAGE IN POWER STATIONS		
	Coal	Gas
1992	65.8	1.4
1993	55.1	4.0
1994	52.0	7.5
1995	48.0	10.5
1996	44.5	13.5
1997	38.2	22.6

ransom. This they did with gusto, erecting cheap gas-fired stations with abandon and ensuring that they ran by bidding them into the wholesale electricity market at zero price.

Today there are 15,000 megawatts of gas-fired capacity in service. And enough new capacity will come on-stream in the next five years to extinguish another 25 million tonnes of coal burn and take gas's share of the market to well over 40 per cent.

What the new energy policy is designed to do is prevent that share from rising to 60 per cent by 2010 and 75 per cent by 2020.

The key to this will be the reform of the electricity pool. Instead of a system whereby generators simply bid in prices - giving them an incentive to keep prices higher than they need to be - electricity will operate like other markets for goods and services, with generators posting the prices at which they will sell and suppliers the price at which they will buy.

The theory is that coal plants with low marginal costs will be called on more often, producing a bigger market for coal and cheaper electricity. But this process will take up to three years to bed down, during which time the Government will sacrifice the environmental benefits and boost to competition that more gas-fired stations would bring. Only gas-fired plants which operate as combined heat and power stations are likely to be viewed kindly under the new licensing regime.

Ministers, miners and MPs all knew that when the long-term coal supply contracts between the generators and the coal producers, principally Richard Budge's RJB Mining, came to an end this spring, there would be a gaping hole to fill. By a series of short-term fixes, the Government staved off the threat of Mr Budge announcing up to eight pit closures and 5,000 job losses in the run-up to last Christmas.

Today, Britain has the bones of a new energy policy. But nobody is betting that yesterday's fudge will save Budge in the long- or even medium-term. Those 5,000 miners' jobs may not disappear tomorrow. But many of them are likely to be gone in the next 12 to 18 months.

Outlook, page 19

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Execution

FUEL USAGE  
POWER STATION

Year	Coal	Gas	Nuclear
1992	14.5	14.5	14.5
1993	14.5	14.5	14.5
1994	14.5	14.5	14.5
1995	14.5	14.5	14.5
1996	14.5	14.5	14.5
1997	14.5	14.5	14.5
1998	14.5	14.5	14.5
1999	14.5	14.5	14.5
2000	14.5	14.5	14.5

...the market for waste paper has collapsed and is bringing down local councils' recycling schemes with it, the environmental pressure group Friends of the Earth said yesterday.

Recycled paper is now fetching at most 25 per ton and sometimes nothing, FoE said, meaning that some local authorities have had to abandon collection schemes as they cannot recover their costs.

A survey of 219 councils carried out by the group last month showed that more than one in 10 had ceased a kerbside collection of waste paper, more than one in 10 had closed paper banks, and one in three had abandoned plans to expand paper recycling.

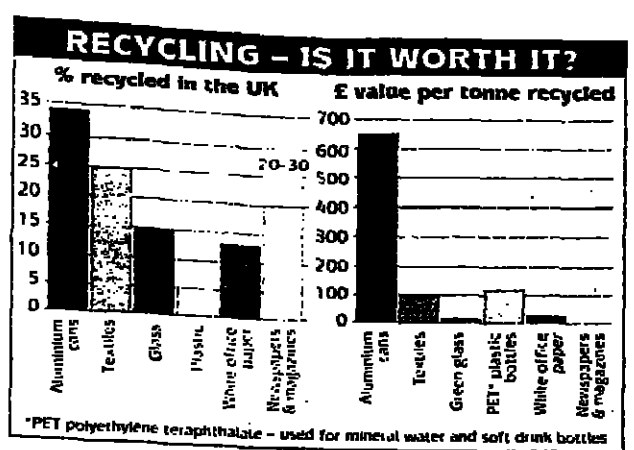
This, FoE points out, is despite the Government's intention in its draft waste strategy, published two weeks ago, to increase recycling "substantially". The group is calling for the Government to intervene in the market, and in particular for it to set a much higher mandatory target for the use of

recycled paper in the newspaper industry.

Since 1991 the Newspaper Publishers' Association, which represents the big national dailies, has had a voluntary target of 40 per cent of newsprint to be made up of recycled paper by the year 2000; this has been exceeded: newspapers currently use about 43 per cent. The Newspaper Publishers' Association hopes to agree a new target for the recycled content of newsprint with the Government this year.

FoE wants the present target to be doubled to 80 per cent, and with two other groups, Waste Watch and the Community Recycling Network, is supporting a Private Members' Bill which will be introduced in the House of Commons on 3 July by David Chaytor, Labour MP for Bury North, in an attempt to bring this about.

"Dumping waste paper instead of recycling leaves us with more and more polluting rubbish tips," said Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth's waste campaigner. "The Government's commitment to increase recycling is in early trouble, with schemes around the country collapsing. The Government has the power to



# Kerbside recycling hit by fall in prices for waste

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

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Crushed cans are prepared for recycling at an educational centre on waste and the environment in Hackney, east London. Andrew Buurman

more and more polluting rubbish tips," said Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth's waste campaigner. "The Government's commitment to increase recycling is in early trouble, with schemes around the country collapsing. The Government has the power to

take action and they must do." But it is not that simple, according to David Symmers of the Independent Waste Paper Processors' Association. "The price of waste paper has dropped, Mr Symmers said, partly because the price of Indonesian wood pulp has fallen

steeply with the fall in the Indonesian currency and the price of waste paper is linked to the world price of pulp. "But it's also one of the clearest links you can see between supply and demand," he said. "If all the local authorities in Britain run round and collect it, it will just oversupply the market. There's nowhere for it to go and the price will drop. "Collecting waste paper isn't recycling. Recycling is when it's been made into a product which has a use. And at the moment there is more waste paper than there is a use for."

# Teenager wins gay fostering decision

BY DIANA BLAMIRE

A GAY teenager has won the right to be placed with gay foster carers, following a council U-turn.

His two-year battle ended yesterday when a High Court judge was told that a London council's social services department had at last agreed to his request.

The 15-year-old "H", who cannot be named for legal reasons, had launched a legal challenge against Wandsworth Borough Council.

He accused the authority of "unreasonably and irrationally" refusing to give due consideration to his wish to live with gay foster carers. He had repeatedly made the request to the council.

His application for judicial review was withdrawn yesterday before Mr Justice Cazalet after the council indicated it would now comply with his request.

"H" was first accommodated by Wandsworth in February 1996, following family problems. From the start, he asked for gay foster carers. "H", whose ambition is to become a performing artist, hugged his team outside court and said yesterday: "I am really happy. Two-and-a-half years of torment are finally over."

"I can start living my childhood, which has been ripped away from me over the last two-and-a-half years."

He thanked his legal team, led by the barrister Alan Inglis and solicitor Paul Aitchison, and his mother, for being "completely supportive all the way through".

His solicitor, Paul Aitchison, said outside court that he was "astounded" by the refusal of Wandsworth social services to agree to the 15-year-old's request. He said all the social workers involved had recommended that he should be placed with gay carers.

Mr Aitchison said: "We are not saying that H's sexuality was the only issue, as clearly that was not the case. "Wandsworth adopted a political stance, rather than a child-centred stance."

# Asylum-seeker cleared of rioting faces deportation

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

IT IS a strange predicament for an innocent man. Having successfully cleared his name in a spectacular court victory last week, Stanley Nwadike sits in a Victorian prison cell waiting to be flown out of the country next week in handcuffs.

A former political dissident in Ogoniland, Nigeria, he is not expecting a friendly welcome in the West African state because of his opposition to Shell's oil explorations in his homeland.

His arrival will hardly go unnoticed. Apart from the highly visible presence of an accompanying British immigration official he has attracted notoriety from his involvement in what has become a cause célèbre. Mr Nwadike and eight other West African asylum seekers became known as the Campsfield Nine.

They were controversially charged with riot and violent disorder after unrest at Britain's biggest immigration camp last year.

Group 4, which runs Campsfield, claimed its staff had been attacked. But the case collapsed after Group 4 officers repeatedly contradicted themselves in their evidence.

While three of the defendants walked free, having been

that they are at risk of persecution if they are returned to their homelands have not been accepted by British officials.

Enahoro Esemuze, 25, was this week taken on to the hospital wing at Rochester and placed under suicide watch amid growing concern over his mental condition.

Friends said that he was normally an "intelligent and articulate" man but had become depressed and confused after 13 months in custody. His solicitor, Louise Christian, said she was considering a case of malicious prosecution.

She said Mr Esemuze's political background was similar to that of other members of the Campsfield Nine who have been given permission to remain in Britain. Sunny Oxide and Edward Onabanjo Agora have been granted refugee status, and Lucky Agbekaku was given temporary admission.

One 17-year-old member of the Campsfield group is currently undergoing treatment for psychiatric illness at a secure hospital in London.

The Nigerian-born teenager was taken to hospital from the Feltham Young Offenders Institution, west London, where he took an overdose of antidepressants and was on a life-support machine.

Also in Rochester is Harrison Tubman, an asylum-seeker from Liberia, who has been threatened with deportation to Nigeria because he entered Britain using the passport of a Nigerian woman.

The final member of the Campsfield group facing deportation, Sambou Marong, is still appealing against the decision to refuse him asylum. Yesterday he was given bail pending a final appeal hearing.

Meanwhile at Campsfield House, 22 detainees were yesterday in the fourth day of a hunger strike in protest that Mr O'Brien has not responded to requests to visit them to hear the concerns of asylum seekers at the centre.

They were angry that Mr O'Brien visited Campsfield five days before the riot trial in order to present Group 4 with an Investors in People award.

Yesterday Group 4 said that although the 22 asylum seekers were refusing meals, it believed that they were eating snack food bought from the Campsfield shop.

# Inspectors to spare good schools

BY BEN RUSSELL  
Education Correspondent

GOOD SCHOOLS may only be inspected every seven, 10 or even 12 years in the future, the chief inspector of schools said yesterday.

Chris Woodhead said schools that were succeeding could expect a "light touch" from Ofsted inspection teams.

"We want to make sure that the money we have is used to maximum effect," he said.

Ofsted has finished the first four-year cycle of inspections of all English secondary schools, and will soon complete its first primary cycle.

Two years ago, the Govern-

ment decided that the second round of inspections should take place once every six years, unless schools were giving cause for concern.

Speaking at a local education authority conference in Buxton, Derbyshire, Mr Woodhead said the frequency of inspections was being reviewed.

"We decided at that stage that it would be a step too far to change the nature of the inspection as well," Mr Woodhead said. "But we have now decided to revisit both of those decisions. Is six years the right length of time between inspections? We are open-minded about that."

"We have also to revisit the issue of whether it is desirable to introduce a lighter touch model of inspection for schools where things are improving or where high standards have remained consistent."

Any move to cut the number of inspections faced by schools will be warmly welcomed by teachers. The pressure of Ofsted inspections were a central complaint of staff who won a cut

# Sharpe's TRIUMPH

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DAILY TELEGRAPH

HarperCollins Publishers

# Memo to my successor: you're welcome to the job

UNTIL YESTERDAY, the last time I heard my successor as Member of Parliament for Cleethorpes speak was on the night of my defeat and her election, when she proposed, and I seconded, the vote of thanks to the returning officer.

There were two productions in the Commons on which new Blair babe, Shona McIsaac (Lab, Cleethorpes), wanted to speak, and on both occasions I realised how lucky I was to be dumped by the voters of Cleethorpes.

First, Ms McIsaac, Scottish, 38, red-haired, wearing orange jacket, black skirt and stockings, had to participate in the planted-question farce during Treasury questions.

She had question number six. "If the Chancellor will make a statement on the representations he has received on his plans to reform employees' national insurance contributions." Surprise, surprise, every single word of this question was exactly the same as those of question number two, in the name of another Blair babe, Joan Ryan (Lab, Enfield North). Obviously the Labour whips cannot remember when they have already planted a question with one woman member, and give out the identical question to another - all their women MPs must look the same.

The Chancellor said: "With permission, Madam Speaker, I will

answer questions two and six together." We could have saved a bit of time if Ms McIsaac and Ms Ryan had stood up together and read out in unison, like Pinky and Perky: "Madam Speaker, we would like to sing our identically worded planted questions together."

Then followed the statement by the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, on future fuel policy. It was long and complicated and took Mrs Beckett nearly 15 minutes to deliver. Boiled down, I think it meant that while the coal industry will be given no subsidy it will have a fairer and more level playing field at the expense of gas-fired power stations.

## THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

The minute Mrs Beckett rose, as a privileged member of the Press Gallery, I was given a copy of her

statement and so knew what was coming. I could even put my pen down and concentrate on her excellent dress sense (silver two-piece trouser suit, long silky white scarf), attractive hairstyle and confident speaking manner, as she batted on her usual territory of sticky wickets.

I know it is not fashionable to say, but I am a fully paid-up fan of Mrs Beckett, who deftly keeps the left wing of the Labour party under control. Tony Benn (Lab, Chesterfield), Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover) and other old Labour mining members did not give her a particularly hard time. Only Mr Skinner suggested, ever so gently,

the ultimate option of the renationalisation of coal - quickly rejected by Mrs Beckett.

Further support came from an unlikely quarter in the shape of Nicholas Winterston (Con, Macclesfield), who used the opportunity to be nice to Mrs Beckett in order to have a go at his old arch-enemy, Michael Heseltine. He usefully reminded Labour MPs that Mr Heseltine had done more than anyone else to scupper the coal industry.

John Redwood, the shadow industry spokesman, berated Mrs Beckett with a series of metaphors. "We were promised an elephant of a policy. We have been given a mouse ... minister playing across

the line of the spin from Number Ten ... batsman caught out."

Poor Shona McIsaac, unlike me, did not have an advance copy of the statement and had to listen, furiously taking notes. Mrs Beckett was ending the future development of the gas-powered stations and was stuffing her constituency.

Ms McIsaac spent a wasted hour jumping up and down trying, unsuccessfully, to catch Madam Speaker's eye. I felt very sorry for her as Betty closed the show down.

I realised what a dog's life it is being the new member for Cleethorpes. I'll stick to the Press Gallery, Shona. No more trouble from me!

## Telegram rebuke for Cook

ROBIN COOK was rebuked by an all-party committee of MPs yesterday after refusing to hand over telegrams relating to the Sierra Leone affair.

However, the Foreign Affairs Committee was increasingly embroiled in internal battles last night after a Labour member was accused of blocking a Conservative MP's questions on the affair. The committee said it was "wrong in principle" that the Government had not met its demands for information. Mr Cook dismissed the report as being "over the top".

The committee may now follow up with a call for a Commons debate on the issue. MPs are increasingly frustrated by the Government's insistence that it cannot hand over the telegrams sent by British last year after they were forced by a coup to leave Sierra Leone.

Ministers said they favoured a peaceful solution, but British mercenaries shipped arms to the exiled government in breach of a UN embargo, and there are claims of collusion by the Foreign Office.

The Foreign Secretary has insisted that he will hand over the telegrams from Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, once an inquiry into the affair by Sir Thomas Legg is over.

But despite anger on the committee, there is little it can do. Yesterday, its chairman, Donald Anderson (Lab, Swansea East) said members would meet next Tuesday to decide what action to take next. Its options could include asking the Leader of the House, Ann Taylor, to intervene, calling Mr Cook before the committee or using a short Commons debate to address the issue. The strongest sanction available would be a technical motion to cut Mr Cook's salary, which would be bound to fail because of Labour's large majority.

Diane Abbott (Lab, Hackney North) said the rights of independent select committees were under attack. "The Gov-

SIERRA LEONE  
BY FRAN ABRAMS  
Political Correspondent

ernment has given the unfortunate impression that it is seeking to hide behind the Legg inquiry to avoid a wider public inquiry into the Sierra Leone affair. There are important issues of principle at stake," she said.

The Liberal Democrat on the committee, David Heath (Somerton and Frome) said: "This is no longer primarily a question about Sierra Leone. It is about the conduct of ministers and ... parliamentary scrutiny."

However, much of Tuesday's meeting is likely to be taken up by a row over a separate development, in which Ernie Ross (Lab, Dundee West) prevented Sir John Stanley (Con, Tonbridge and Malling) from asking questions about the roles of intelligence and military advisers. Yesterday Sir John said Mr Ross had invoked a procedure not used formally for 60 years.

"The significance of that precedent is immense. In my view it lights a blowtorch at the integrity of the entire select committee system," he said. Sir John has written to the Commons Procedure Committee to complain. Mr Ross denied that he had been asked to block Sir John's questions. "It's quite clear to me that this committee has a great deal of work to do. Some of my colleagues have got an obsession on this matter and they stopped us getting on with that work," he said.

Last night, Mr Cook said he had offered the select committee the chance to inspect the documents and to receive a summary of them once the Legg inquiry was over. That went further than other secretaries of state had done in similar circumstances, he said. "I am glad the select committee welcomes that offer but it is unreasonable for it to demand the documents while they are before the inquiry of Sir Thomas Legg," he said.

### Costs at No 10

THE TOTAL staff costs for Number 10 were £3.4m in 1996-97 and £4.1m in 1997-98. Estimated costs for 1998/9 are £4.9m, the Prime Minister told Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman.

### Asbestos deaths

THERE WERE 164 deaths caused by asbestos in 1995 - the last year for which figures are available, environment minister Angela Eagle told Lindsay Hoyle (Lab, Chorley).

### Tourism income

TOURISM ACCOUNTED for 2.89 per cent of the UK's gross domestic product in 1995 - £17,602m, the culture, media and sport minister Tom Clarke told Geraldine Smith (Lab, Morecambe and Lunesdale).

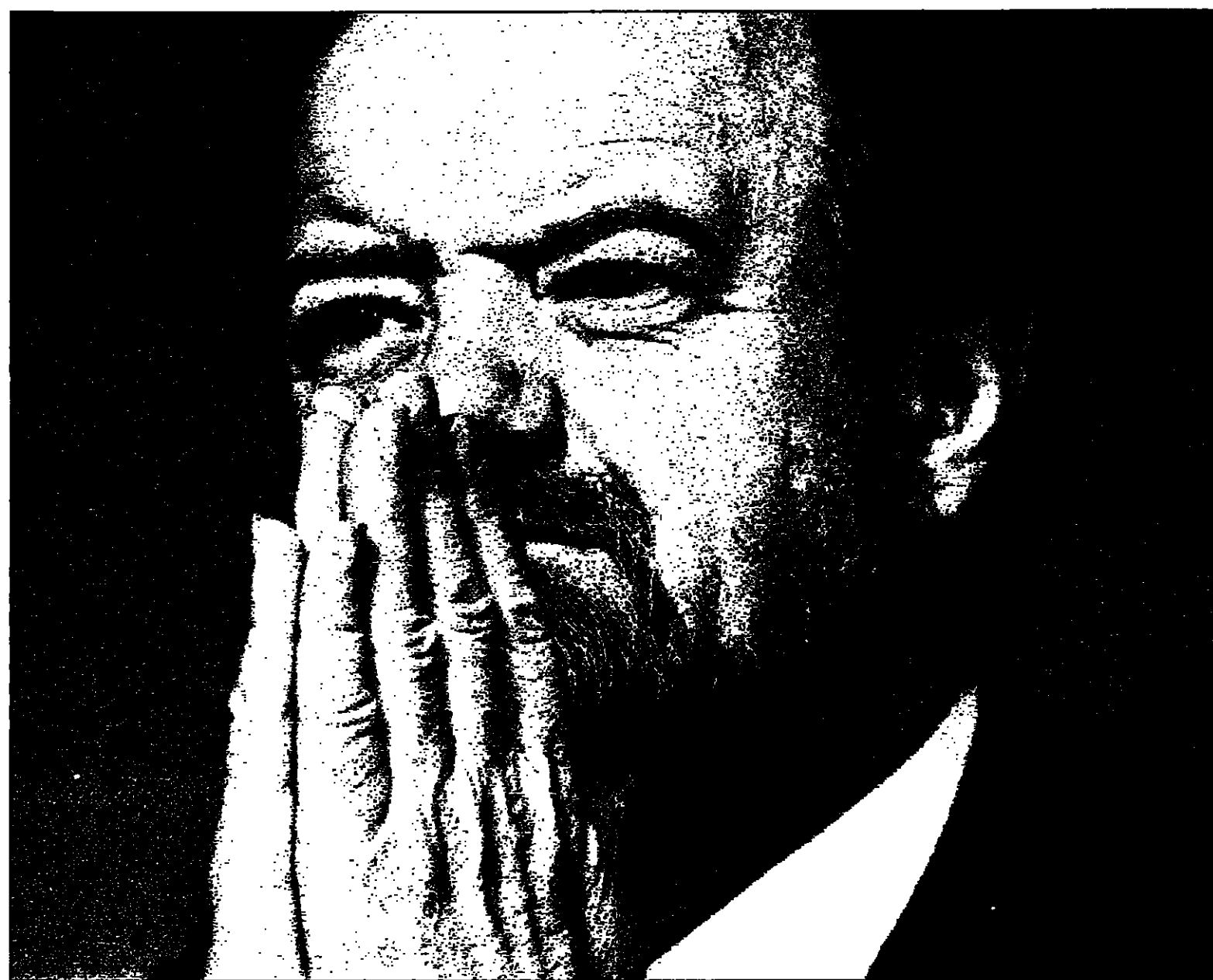
## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Twin birth rates

THE NUMBER of women who gave birth to twins rose from 7,533 in 1990 to 8,408 in 1997, the health minister Paul Boateng told Dafydd Wigley (PC, Caernarfon). The number of triplets rose from 190 to 279 in the same period.

### Dome sponsors

MORE THAN £100m of private-sector sponsorship for the Millennium Experience has been committed so far, and it is expected to achieve its sponsorship target of £150m by the end of the year, Peter Mandelson told Austin Mitchell (Lab, Great Grimsby).



Robin Cook, who is under pressure after refusing to hand over telegrams relating to the Sierra Leone affair

Ian Torrance

## Labour backs minicab Bill

PLANS TO regulate London minicabs were given surprise last-minute support by the Government after senior Cabinet members supported plans to push the necessary legislation through the Commons.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, had been expected to block Liberal Democrat moves to give the Bill, and another on energy efficiency, as much parliamentary time as they needed.

The Bill to license minicabs in the capital, put forward by Sir George Young, a former Tory transport minister, was blocked by a single MP - Eric Forth (Con, Bromley and Chislehurst), a campaigner against bureaucracy. He also blocked a

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

BY SAM COATES

Bill that would require mortgage lenders to carry out energy surveys. In response, the Liberal Democrats put forward a scheme to rescue the Bills, by giving up one of the few days they can set Commons business to debate the issue.

Mr Blair, Mr Brown, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and Ann Taylor put their names to an amendment saying "the existing procedure and time available for private members' bills should not be altered". Such proposals should be examined

by a select committee, it said. However, in a surprise U-turn in the Commons, Mrs Taylor, the Leader of the Commons, said the Government would have no difficulty re-affirming its support for the two Bills.

She said the Government was happy to be associated with this legislation, which it had helped draft. "If members acted co-operatively there could well be time for several of those Bills to complete their passage through this House on that day [3 July] - when the matter comes up for debate again," and proceed to the House of Lords.

"Unfortunately, I think there may be one or two members who may still be intending to ob-

ject to those Bills on 3 July, but I think it is important they know how strong the feeling is in the rest of the House."

Following the Government's decision not to oppose the amendment, the Liberal Democrat proposal was passed without objection.

Urging the Government to accept the Liberal Democrats' amendment, Paul Tyler (Cornwall North) said that the Bills had considerable cross-party support, including the backing of the Prime Minister.

He added that they also had very strong public support, the legislation had been fully considered in committee and was totally uncontroversial. "All parts of the House, all members, of any party and of no

party, do have a responsibility to reflect public concern about the way that we handle our business here, and that includes public members' bills."

The changes will significantly affect the lives of millions of people for the better, the spokesman Jackie Ballard (Llŷdenn, Taunton) told the Commons.

It is currently illegal for an employer to conduct a full criminal check on records of drivers. Last year, there were 67 people assaulted and 18 raped in minicabs in London.

Ms Ballard pointed out that there had been no credible opposition to the Bill, "except for the reaction of one honourable member [Mr Forth], who I note is not in his place today."

## Ministerial secrecy criticised

MINISTERS ARE still blocking MPs' questions despite commitments to freedom of information, a Commons committee said last night.

The Public Administration Committee said MPs may find it just as difficult to get information from the Government after the Freedom of Information legislation became law. Ironically, members of the public would have more right to know than MPs, who might have to abandon their system of written questions, resorting instead to paying a fee for information as the public will do under the new law.

The committee surveyed 120 questions that ministers re-

### OPEN GOVERNMENT

BY FRAN ABRAMS

fused to answer in 1996-97, but when it asked departments to explain why, all but two refused on the grounds that they could not comment on the actions of the previous government. The reply from the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine - one of the respondents who did try to explain - showed that in most cases Labour ministers would have blocked the questions just as their predecessors had.

"In most cases the minister's response would have been the same in this session as it was in the last session under the

previous Government," the report said. "In general, the responses do not seem to sit well with the commitment of freedom of information to which they all refer."

Because the MPs' system would remain broadly the same under the new system while the public would have much more access to information, ordinary citizens might be in a better position, the report said. "It would be absurd if the private request should be in some way a better method of obtaining an answer from the Government than the public request in Parliament. Ministers should continue to be held to account in Parliament," it said.

The committee also complained that government departments were still failing to cite the relevant part of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information when refusing to answer MPs' questions. Usually they cited commercial confidentiality, security or the confidentiality of law enforcement operations, it said.

"We are disappointed by this failure by many departments to adopt a practice accepted by the Government," the report added. Among the subjects on which the previous government refused to answer questions were class sizes, student housing and the number of dentists who were retraining.

### Benefit errors costing millions

A "HIGH LEVEL of error" in the administration of Disability Living Benefit in Northern Ireland is costing taxpayers millions of pounds each year.

The Commons Public Accounts Committee said it was "extremely concerned" about the overpayment, under-payment and non-payment of the benefit by the Northern Ireland Security Agency.

The committee urged the agency to "significantly improve" its performance, so that claims would be assessed properly and taxpayers could expect that their money was being properly spent.

### Homes action

THE DEPUTY Prime Minister, John Prescott, faces legal action over his plans to build new homes in the countryside.

West Sussex County Council is challenging Mr Prescott's order that it must include an extra 12,800 houses inside its boundaries with a judicial review hearing on Monday.



## THE HOUSE

The action is seen as a test case in the nationwide controversy sparked by plans for millions of new homes in the 21st century.

### Child deaths

A LEADING paediatrician has urged the Government not to back down over plans to penalise motorists for excessive car use.

Dr Ian Roberts, of Great Ormond Street Hospital, has written an open letter to Tony Blair, pointing out the high number of child deaths that are caused by cars. He said youngsters from the lowest socioeconomic group were five times more likely to be killed on the road than those from the highest.

The House is not sitting today.

### ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

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Match 5 plus bonus ball	8	£145,035	£1,160,280
Match 4	506	£1,433	£725,098
Match 3	30,385	£52	£1,580,020
Match 2	534,841	£10	£5,348,410
TOTALS	565,742		£12,584,722

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(see Friday Review, music section.)

هكذا من الأصل



## Welcome to Libreville, the capital of Gabon where the cost of living is as high as London



Libreville, where expatriates and the elite pay inflated prices for imported quality goods, has always been one of the world's most expensive cities *Brno Barbey/Magnum*

LONDON HAS climbed into the top 10 of the world's most expensive cities - where it has joined Libreville, the capital of Gabon, in joint sixth position.

The West African city, where the privileged lead a life of luxury financed by Gabon's huge oil reserves, is no stranger to such a lofty position.

London, however, because of the high value of the sterling, has shot up from 14th position to its highest spot for 20 years, according to a survey carried out by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

The escalating cost of food, drink, entertainment and public transport is also to blame for the elevated ranking of England's capital.

The cost of living in London now compares unfavourably to

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

most other European cities where costs have stayed roughly the same in the past few months - making the capital now more expensive than Paris.

Gabon, an oil-producing country with a wealthy elite, was once the administrative centre of the French colonies in West Africa. Though many people have never heard of Libreville, its ranking as one of the world's most expensive cities is nothing new.

Virginia Thorp, editor of the EIU's *Worldwide Cost of Living Survey*, said: "Expatriates who are mostly there because of the oil industry are a small, captive market. Quality goods have to be imported and the

A TALE OF TWO COSTLY CITIES			
Ten most expensive	London	Population	Libreville
1. (1) Tokyo	9m		350,000
2. (2) Osaka			
3. (5) Hong Kong	£2.56	Litre of beer at shop price	80p
4. (3) Oslo	£287	Top hotel room for night	£73
5. (6) Zurich	£140	Two-course meal for two in top restaurant	£202
6. (14) London			
7. (6) Paris	£3.36	20 cigarettes	92p
8. (10) Geneva	£565	56cm Television	£1,025
9. (4) Moscow			
10. (4) Moscow			

prices are inflated. Libreville has always been one of the most expensive cities."

Ms Thorp added: "I think that London has probably

peaked and we may well look back at this as the highest ranking it has achieved."

The survey, which is based on the views of expatriates

who move around cities and countries as part of their jobs, covers 119 cities. Representatives in each of the cities fill out a questionnaire in two set

weeks of the year, detailing the cost of goods such as alcohol, tobacco, household items, clothing and books. Transport, recreation and "personal care costs" are also compared.

The Japanese cities of Tokyo and Osaka are the most expensive places to live in, closely followed by Hong Kong in third place. The Norwegian capital, Oslo, remains the most expensive city in Europe.

Most Western European cities are in the top half of the rankings, making Eastern Europe a better bet for holiday-makers as a cheap destination.

Lisbon is the cheapest city in Western Europe and Budapest the least costly in Europe as a whole. The Asian financial crisis has resulted in Jakarta plummeting 60 places to 119th.

## Anger at delay to school results

NATIONAL TEST results for more than a million children have been delayed by weeks because of blunders by a contractor employed by a government quango.

Corrected test papers for all 11-year-olds and 14-year-olds have been returned to schools this week, but pupils may not know their official grades, known as "levels", until the beginning of next term.

Ministers are said to be furious about the delays which mean that many schools will be unable to include levels in end-of-term reports to parents.

Teachers are being sent mark sheets which enable them to convert the marks into levels - a job that is usually done centrally. But heads and some teachers' union leaders are advising their members not to carry out the conversion at a time in the school year when they are already under pressure. So pupils will be able to see their marks and percentages but will not know how they translate into levels.

The mix-up comes at a bad time for the Government, which has promised to cut down the amount of paperwork in schools.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, which oversees the tests, says the calculation of the levels in papers in English, maths and science, will take only about one minute for each pupil. It is the first time the results have been processed by computer and the authority said yesterday that it could not say whether all schools would have their results by the end of term, the third week in July in most areas.

Dr Nick Tate, the authority's chief executive, has told schools in a letter: "The contractor appointed to process the results

BY JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

has experienced a number of technical problems leading to slippages in the planned schedule. We are naturally very sorry for any inconvenience this causes schools. We are doing all we can to keep the delay to a minimum."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, which is advising its members not to ask teachers to carry out the conversions, said that the amount of work involved in secondary schools was quite substantial. He added: "It's a dog's dinner. This is the straw that breaks the camel's back over workload and bureaucracy."

Heads had the choice of hoping the results would arrive in time for this term's reports, sending out just teachers' assessments of pupils' levels, or waiting until next term.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, accused the authority of trying to keep parents in the dark. He said news of the delay had been slipped out late on Tuesday.

"If this only involves a little bit of work, why doesn't Dr Tate find someone to do it? Primary schools are very busy at this time of year with activities such as sports days and outings."

The moderate Association of Teachers and Lecturers said it was dismayed that children would be kept waiting and schools would have great difficulty getting the grades out in time.

The Department for Education said it regretted the delay and was "taking a keen interest" in the matter.

■ *Helpline for schools: 0141-954 7961*

## Life-swap man 'said he was related to footballer'

A CANADIAN businessman accused of murdering a Briton and taking his identity claimed that footballer David Platt was his cousin, a court heard yesterday.

Albert Walker, 52, even boasted he was the former England captain's business manager while living under the name of his alleged victim, Ronald Platt, Exeter Crown Court was told.

At the time he made the claim, Mr Walker was living in Woodham Water, Essex, where he ran a therapy business.

The court heard that Mr Walker, who denies murder, claimed he handed investments for the footballer when calls arrived at his office for someone called David.

The body of his alleged victim, Ronald Platt, was hauled up in fishing nets by a Devon trawler on 28 July 1996. It was

BY CHRIS COURT

identified by his Rolex watch. The prosecution has claimed that Mr Walker fled to Britain in 1990 from financial and marital problems in Canada, and later befriended Ronald Platt, a television repair man, in Harrogate, Yorkshire.

He subsequently paid for Mr Platt and his girlfriend to start a new life in Canada - and assumed Mr Platt's identity in Britain. The prosecution has alleged that Mr Platt was murdered after returning from Canada to Britain in 1996.

Mr Walker, the prosecution alleges, murdered him by throwing Ron Platt's anchor-weighted body from his yacht, the *Lady Jane*, off the South Devon coast on 20 July 1996.

Yesterday, the therapist Isabel Rogers, who worked for the Solutions in Therapy business

run by "Ron Platt" in Essex, told the court how Mr Walker told her of his background.

He told her he had lived in Vermont, in the United States, and in Liverpool, had been a banker in the US and Europe. Mrs Rogers said that Mr Walker told her he had seven children in New York and Canada, and had a brother and a cousin, both called David. "He made out David Platt the footballer was his cousin," Mrs Rogers said.

On 21 July 1996, he telephoned her saying he had had a "bad accident" on his boat, she said. "He said he fell and had hurt his head and chest, and had hurt himself pulling heavy things off the boat."

Audrey Mossman said she lived close to the house in Woodham Water where in the autumn of 1994 a couple who introduced themselves as Ron

and Noel Platt moved in. The court has been told that "Noel" was the name assumed by Walker's daughter Sheena, who was 15 when she left Canada with him in 1990.

Mr Walker and his daughter were posing as man and wife when they moved to Essex from Tiverton, Devon, the Crown has told the jury.

Frank Johnson, a retired businessman from Woodham Water, said in a statement that he became friendly with the man he knew as Ron Platt, who said he had been an international banker.

Mr Johnson said he decided to offer "Ron" a proposition, and lent him £200,000 at zero interest in April 1995, to invest for three years. "Platt" later gave him cheques for £25,000 and £5,000, money he said was from the investment.

The trial continues today.

## Hospital mergers prescribed as best tonic for ailing NHS

DOCTORS' LEADERS called yesterday for a programme of hospital mergers and reorganisation to concentrate expertise and minimise risks to patients.

"Super-hospitals", serving a population of at least 500,000, about twice the present size, should be the target to ensure high-quality specialist care for patients, a report by three medical organisations says.

Some casualty units would have to close and smaller hospitals would be downgraded, providing low-tech care in co-operation with nearby larger ones.

The report, by the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons, adds to the growing consensus among ministers, doctors and

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

managers, that the NHS must adapt to survive, with specialist services concentrated in fewer hospitals while routine treatments are delivered by GP clinics and health centres.

The growing complexity of medicine means specialist treatments can no longer be safely provided in small local hospitals, where consultants

work alone without the back-up of a full medical team. It will mean more travelling for patients, because there will be fewer, larger units, but better care when they arrive.

The report says there should be no single-handed consultants in any of the main medical or surgical sub-specialties, regardless of the size of hospital, and there must be a big increase in the number of consultants to provide services

of the necessary high quality. However, it acknowledges that the average-sized district general hospital, serving populations of 250,000 to 350,000, will remain the backbone of the NHS for some time. Although they can provide most hospital services, "it will not be possible for each locality to have its own acute hospital and accident and emergency unit".

The report adds: "Hospital closure is not intended. Those hospitals no longer able to provide acute services will be valuable in providing out-patient services and rehabilitation."

The Senate of Surgery said the number of hospitals providing advanced surgery should be halved to ensure access to a full range of specialists and top-quality care.

### DEREK PRINGLE

*'Cricket may at last face its future rather than live up to its past, something it has been accountable to for far too long'*

— THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5

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# Sex assaults by policemen on increase

BY JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

INCREASING NUMBERS of police officers are being reported for sexually harassing and assaulting female colleagues and members of the public, a complaints body disclosed yesterday.

Among the cases highlighted was an officer who was accused of indecently assaulting several women while they were held in cells and a policeman who offered to help a woman special constable join the force in return for sex.

The Police Complaints Authority's annual report, published yesterday, also expresses concerns about the record number of deaths in custody and issues warnings about the excessive use of CS spray and batons.

On the issue of sexual harassment, the PCA noted: "Allegations of sexual harassment by police officers have been the subject of a growing number of cases dealt with by the PCA over recent years."

It went on: "...the most disturbing came from women whose vulnerability had been

exploited by police officers to whom they had turned for help. "In some cases ... women complaining of harassment had sought police protection only to suffer the same treatment from the officer supposed to be assisting them."

It added that allegations by women officers had been made against colleagues for harassment at "police stations; in police vehicles; during training courses; or while carrying out surveillance operations".

In the year up to March the PCA dealt with 73 complaints of sexual assault, of which only nine resulted in a punishment. The number of incidents of sexual harassment are not collated separately but are part of the 1,455 cases of general harassment.

The report concluded that while these type of complaints make up only a tiny proportion of their workload "they do suggest that some police officers still display an outdated and

unacceptable attitude towards women and that a few are prepared to betray their position of trust for personal sexual gratification."

PCA deputy chairman John Cartwright said that much of the sexual harassment was by officers in specialist squads.

The report also noted that it had to deal with a record number of deaths in custody - there were 56 in the past year, six of whom were black.

Better training for police custody officers and surgeons should have saved some of the lives, the PCA believes.

The PCA also highlighted the use of CS spray, saying in some cases its use was "neither justified nor appropriate".

Last year the PCA considered 4,390 fully-investigated cases of complaints against police. These led to police officers being charged with 297 disciplinary offences and 882 cases of warnings or admonishments being issued. Eighteen officers were charged with criminal offences.



Hyacinthe Reisch (left) and Jean-Paul Lefevre, of the avant-garde French circus company Que-Cir-Que, rehearse for their show at Highbury Fields in north London, which forms part of the 1998 Islington International Festival. The performances continue until 5 July

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## Litany of harassment

BY JASON BENNETTO

COMPLAINTS OF sexual harassment and assault by male police officers the past year include:

■ Several women accused an officer of sexually assaulting them while they were detained in police cells. Similar accusations had been made against the officer in the past. He was fined £825 and dismissed from the service after being charged with discreditable conduct and disobedience.

■ Sixteen other officers were warned about their failure to supervise the cells.

■ The female victim of unwanted telephone calls complained that the officer dealing with the case had made offensive remarks and had indecently assaulted her.

An investigation led to similar complaints from seven other women, including a police clerical worker. The officer was charged with six counts of indecent assault, placed on probation for two years and dismissed from the force.

■ A woman special constable attending a weekend course at a police headquarters complained that two of the organ-

isers had made improper advances and suggestive remarks.

One officer gave her a note asking her to come to his bedroom and suggested that he would support her application for a full-time police post in return for sex. He was charged with discreditable conduct.

■ A policeman who picked up women while on the beat was jailed for 10 years in May for raping two teenagers and indecently assaulting a woman.

Among the victims of PC John Blott, 33, was a 16-year-old who was raped at the officer's home in New Marske, Cleveland. He had got to know her after questioning her while on duty.

■ A 14-year-old complained that she had been improperly searched by an officer.

This led to a number of female officers reporting they had suffered inappropriate behaviour at the hands of the same officer. He was charged with 10 disciplinary offences of abuse of authority and discreditable conduct.

## Cocaine provides clue to harnessing hunger

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

DRUG USERS who have noticed that cocaine dulls the appetite have led scientists to the discovery of a brain chemical that may be responsible for controlling hunger.

Researchers who injected the chemical called CART - cocaine and amphetamine regulated transcript - into rats found the amount they ate was cut by almost a third. When they injected antibodies to block the effect of the CART they ate more.

They believe that CART may be partly responsible for producing a feeling of fullness after eating. The discovery of a neu-

rotransmitter responsible for controlling appetite would mark a leap forward in the search for treatments for obesity, because neurotransmitters are by definition related to the control of normal physiological processes and should be easy to modify with drugs.

However, the researchers warn there are many chemicals regulating appetite and eating and if one is knocked out the brain will eventually learn to compensate.

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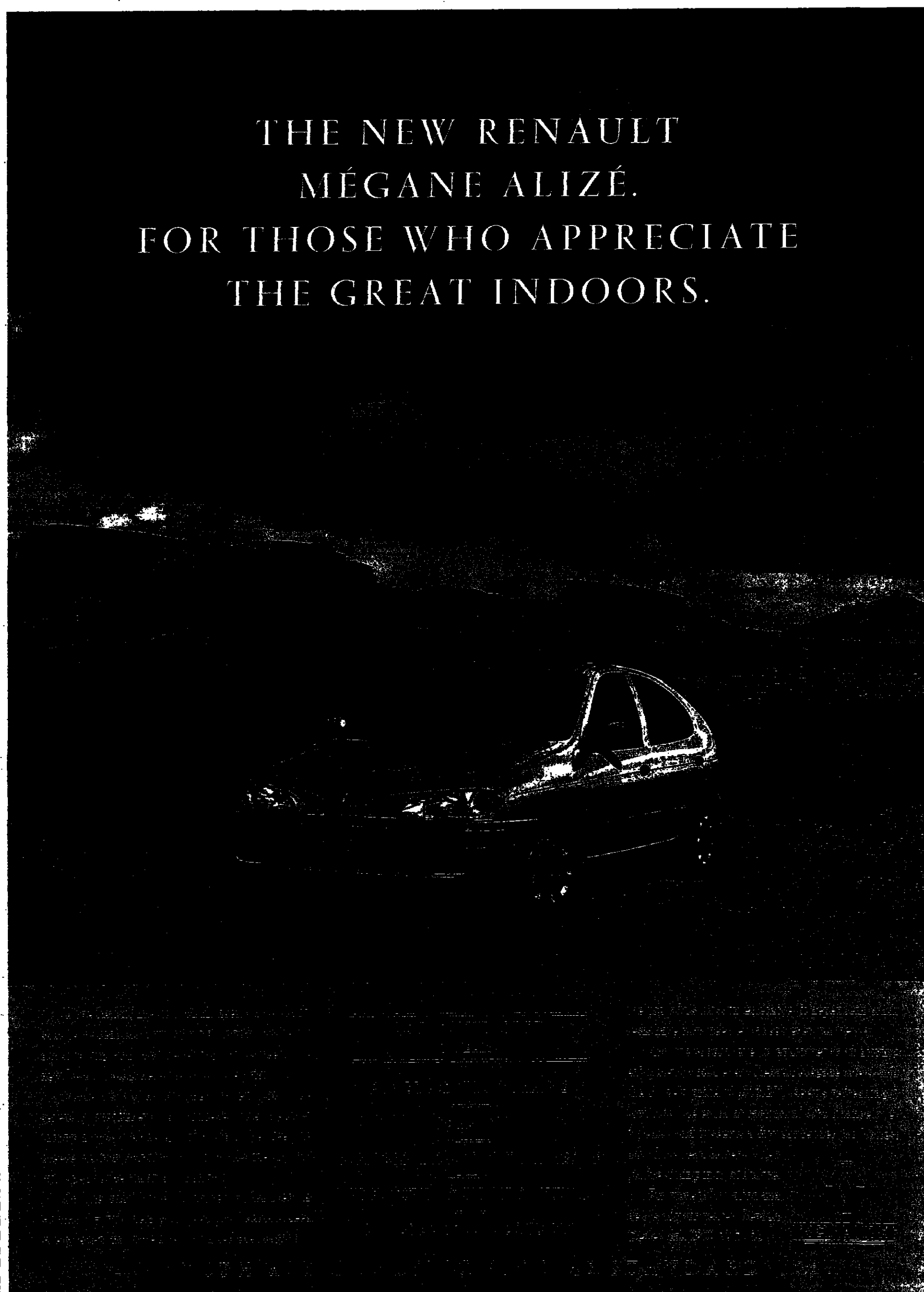
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## 12/FOREIGN NEWS

Clinton comes  
to China in  
imperial style

IT WAS a welcome that only China could have offered a visiting American President. In the former imperial capital of Xian, 800 costumed Chinese actors last night danced to the beat of giant red drums under the brightly illuminated ancient city wall as they felled this son of Arkansas in the style of a Tang Dynasty emperor.

Just hours earlier, in a macabre piece of timing, officials several hundred miles to the south announced the execution of three Chinese men for the murder of an American engineer in March. Such is the diplomatic minefield into which President Clinton has stepped.

Mr Clinton flew into the western Chinese city of Xian already braced by the controversy which has dogged the run-up to his nine-day state visit. After being presented with the key to the city, the President took his first cautious steps into that field with a speech that sought to both please his hosts as well as the critics back home. But for the Chinese, last night was more about pageantry than politics.

The scale of that pageant

A huge entourage accompanies the President as he picks his way through a diplomatic minefield.

By Teresa Poole in Peking

gave measure to the importance attached to this visit, the first by a US leader since the shooting of pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

Women in diaphanous gowns and improbable head-dresses led the way as Mr Clinton and his wife made their long march down yards of welcoming red carpet.

By the South Gate of the old city wall, dancers and musicians put on an extravaganza, with copious amounts of dry ice providing a modern touch to an ancient ceremony.

The choice of Xian as Mr Clinton's first stop represented a careful logistical calculation, given that ancient history offers rather safer territory than the diplomatically treacherous present. With the initial speeches out of the way, the first 24 hours of Mr Clinton's induction to

China have been designed as a virtually politics-free zone. This morning's visit to the nearby "model" village of Xiahe, followed by a tour of the world-famous 2,000-year-old life-sized Terracotta Warriors, will provide just the sort of live television pictures which both Mr Clinton and his Chinese hosts want to see beamed back to the US.

It will not be until tomorrow morning that Mr Clinton attends the most provocative event on his itinerary, the formal political welcome by President Jiang Zemin on the edge of Tiananmen Square (carefully timed to miss the main US network news shows).

It is Mr Clinton's handling of China's dismal human rights record which will determine the success or failure of the trip for his audience back home. So far, no meeting with dissidents is on



Bill Clinton is greeted by a group of schoolchildren with Shaanxi provincial governor Cheng Andong in Xian

Reuters

the agenda, but the President has promised to speak forthrightly about repression.

The Chinese authorities are not making his job any easier. By the time of his arrival, at least three dissidents in Xian had been detained with other activists around the country under virtual house arrest. Yesterday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Western notions of a dissident were "vague" and that China "had no dissidents".

Mr Clinton does not, however, want China's human rights shortcomings to be the only perception Americans have of the world's last major

Communist state. His aides have repeatedly stated that Mr Clinton means to broaden the image of China in the US, with a view to winning support for his policy of "constructive engagement".

Last night he said: "The China that gave us printing, now boasts fax machines, computers and cell-phones. Xian is home to film makers, Internet explorers, business people of every description. Here in this city famous for calligraphy, a new chapter in China's story is being written."

In the first instance, the cultural introduction is more likely to be a learning experience for the Chinese about the modern-day American Imperial style. Emperor Qinshihuang demonstrated his importance in death by being buried in Xian with hundreds of life-sized terracotta warriors. In life, President Clinton has staged a civil invasion of China in order to educate himself about the present.

The vast presidential entourage which arrived yesterday looked designed to match the warriors one-for-one.

As well as his wife and daughter, Mr Clinton has brought five top level administration officials, including the Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and the Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin. Add to that hundreds of support staff and military personnel, 10 ar-

moured limousines and highly sophisticated secure communications equipment (which the Chinese would dearly love to inspect).

China is not used to this level of imported political pomp and circumstance, but has apparently acceded to Washington's insistence that this is the American way. In the village of Xiahe yesterday where some homes still lack running water, the US advance team was busy installing modern, portable toilets and a bank of telephones.

And then there are the journalists, not usually China's favourite guests. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said yesterday that 1,020 reporters were registered to cover the Clinton visit, including 266 from the travelling corps, 281 from the Chinese media and 78 Peking-based foreign correspondents.

China's revenge so far has been to charge foreign television reporters up to \$1,000 per minute for reports next to the Terracotta Warriors. But even at these prices not everyone is welcome: three journalists from Radio Free Asia, the US propaganda station, had their visas withdrawn at the last minute.

The coverage of the state visit by China's own state-controlled media will provide a litmus test of the tentative relaxation of censorship which some observers have discerned in recent months. The first

signs were mixed. The main state television network did not screen live footage of Mr Clinton's arrival and speech. However, Phoenix, the cable channel partly owned by Rupert Murdoch which is gaining access on the mainland, did broadcast it in full.

Three who were not watching were the Xian dissidents who were detained before Mr Clinton's arrival. One of them, Yan Jun, was among the 70 people who signed an open letter calling on the President to meet the family of one of the Tiananmen victims. This is likely to be a pattern of the tour.

Most sinister, though, was yesterday's announcement of the executions on Wednesday of three unemployed drug addicts for the murder of an American, Leonard Phillips, in March. Mr Leonard was stabbed while in his hotel room in Guangdong, the victim of a robbery.

The executions took place just hours after the Guangdong High Court dismissed their appeals. Human rights groups abroad often claim that China's executions can sometimes be scheduled to meet demand for organ transplant operations. It would not be beyond Peking to think that executing the murderers of an American was a suitable welcoming present for the president of a country where there is a popular mandate for the death penalty.

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South Korean Navy personnel inspect the North Korean submarine which sank as it was being towed at the eastern port city of Donghae. The bodies of eight North Korean soldiers were found on board

## 'Suicide' crew found in North Korean sub

AFTER THREE days of suspense, the latest tense episode on the Korean peninsula came to a grisly end yesterday when the bodies of dead sailors were removed from a stricken North Korean submarine.

The Yugo-class midget sub had been towed to the South Korean port of Tonghae after it became tangled in fishing nets on Monday while apparently engaged on an espionage mission. On Wednesday it sank as South Korean naval ships tried to haul it alongside the dock for inspection. After being floated yesterday, television news in the South reported that an unspecified number of bodies had been found in the hull.

They were found lying in just 30 inches of water, according to Korea Broadcasting System, suggesting that they may have asphyxiated or committed suicide rather than drowned. North Korean troops are trained to commit suicide

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY in Tokyo

rather than allow themselves to be captured. When 26 sailors and commandos were stranded in a similar incident in 1996, most of them were shot by one of their own officers. The KBS report was not immediately confirmed by the South Korean defence ministry.

The submarine's entanglement in mackerel nets in South Korean waters 11 miles off the east coast was only the beginning of a series of misadventures. After sinking in 100 feet of water at the mouth of the dockyard, the sub was refloated yesterday using four huge balloons.

The job of prising it open was complicated by the fear of booby traps. Inside, plastic containers for soft drinks made in South Korea were discovered, suggesting that members of the crew had recently spent

time as infiltrators in the South.

"What was found in the sub was contrary to a North Korean claim that the sub was missing while on a routine training mission after experiencing mechanical problems," KBS said.

But the South Korean president, Kim Dae Jung, continued to play down the incident and to emphasise the importance of co-operation with the communist North. "As the intrusion into our territorial waters by a North Korean submarine shows, military tensions are continuing," President Kim said in a speech marking the 48th anniversary yesterday of the alleged North Korean attack which provoked the three year-long Korean War.

"However, while maintaining a firm posture, the newly established government of the people will protect peace and co-operation with the North according to a flexible North Korea policy."

### IN BRIEF

#### Russia warns Iraq on VX gas

RUSSIAN FOREIGN Minister Yevgeny Primakov said yesterday that Iraq should stop denying it put VX nerve gas into missile warheads before the Gulf War and cooperate with UN arms inspectors to get sanctions lifted.

"I don't think it's worthwhile for Baghdad to deny it... The fact is they never used bacteriological weapons in the Gulf War." He compared Iraq's behaviour with that of Israel, which he said had reacted between 12 and 16 nuclear weapons for deployment during the 1967 Middle East war but had not used them.

#### Spectators die

A BALCONY holding more than 100 spectators at a wrestling competition in Moscow collapsed yesterday killing 23 people, officials said. Thirty-nine others were injured.

#### Tiger trap

AUTHORITIES in northern Malaysia are moving villagers into fenced pens to avoid attack by a man-eating tiger.

Villagers have commissioned a magician or *bomoh* to lure the tiger into a trap. "The *bomoh* disguised himself into a tiger and acted the way a tiger will normally do, such as growling, walking and lying down," said a villager. "However, the tiger ran away because someone got scared and switched on a torch."

## Israeli hero's body returns in gory exchange

IN A gory exchange Israel was expecting last night to receive the body of Sergeant Itamar Ilyia, a naval commando killed in an ambush in Lebanon last year, in return for 60 Lebanese prisoners and the bodies of 40 guerrillas killed by Israel in fighting in southern Lebanon.

Hizbollah and Amal, the two Lebanese guerrilla groups fighting Israel's occupation of south Lebanon, each held part of the body of Sgt Ilyia, one of 12 Israelis killed in a disastrous raid last September. His remains were then to be flown on a French plane to Tel Aviv, where they will be identified by the army chief rabbi.

Once Israel is assured that it has received the right body, the remains of 40 guerrillas, 28 from Hizbollah, nine from Amal and three Communists will be flown to Beirut. They will include the body of Hadi Nasrallah, the son of the leader of Hizbollah, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in action in southern Lebanon last year.

Israel will also release 50 Lebanese prisoners from al-Khiam, a prison maintained by the South Lebanon Army, a militia group in south Lebanon paid for and armed by Israel. A further 10 prisoners held in Israel will be released. Most prisoners are associated with Hizbollah and Amal, but Israel has admitted holding some Lebanese purely for the purposes of exchange.

The bodies of the Lebanese guerrillas were dug up overnight and put in makeshift

BY PATRICK COCKBURN in Jerusalem

coffins. Amal said of the remains of Sgt Ilyia: "The skin was handed over this afternoon to the leadership of the Lebanese army." The rest of his body, blown apart by explosives he was carrying, was held by Hizbollah. The remains of the other 11 Israelis killed last year were recovered at the time.

Underlining that the war in south Lebanon is continuing, two Israelis were killed and three seriously wounded yesterday when they were caught by two Hizbollah bombs during a night-time patrol.

Lieutenant Amit Asulin, 21, and Sgt Or Cohen, 19, were killed by the explosions near the village of Tallouse, in the central section of the Israeli occupation zone.

The deaths yesterday bring to eight the numbers of Israelis killed this year, compared to 39 who died last year. The fall in the number of casualties has led to some diminution in pressure on the Israeli government to pull out, which developed last year.

Meanwhile in Gaza, Sheikh Yassin, the leader of the militant organisation Hamas, told a news conference that Hamas would join the cabinet of the Palestinian Authority if Yasser Arafat, its leader, renounced the Oslo agreement with Israel. Sheikh Yassin also offered Israel a cease-fire if it would return to its borders before it captured the West Bank in 1967.

### FRANCIS MAUDE

*'It is dogmatic to decide today that the Euro must be a good thing, and that we will join at the earliest opportunity. The pragmatic course is to see if it works'*

THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

# Vast nuclear dump puts Russia in dock

AN UNPARALLELED legal battle has begun in Russia to stop an ex-Soviet nuclear weapons plant from injecting highly radioactive liquid waste underground - a practice which environmentalists say threatens not only the drinking supply of hundreds of thousands of people but, ultimately, Europe's Arctic fishing grounds.

Local environmentalists in western Siberia have filed a lawsuit against the authorities in an attempt to revoke a dumping permit at Tomsk-7, which produced plutonium and uranium for the Kremlin's nuclear weapons during the Cold War. The radioactivity of the waste dumped there over the last 35 years is about 1,200m curies - utterly dwarfing the 50m curies released when the 1986 Chernobyl disaster sent a cloud of radioactivity across the northern hemisphere.

"It is a unique case," said Thomas Nielsen, of the Bellona Foundation, an Oslo-based environmental research organi-

BY PHIL REEVES in Moscow

sation which monitors the Russian nuclear industry. "This is the first time that an independent local group has tried to take on the authorities in the Russian courts in this way."

Government officials admit that the Siberian Chemical Combine at Tomsk-7 - for years a closed city known only by its postcode and ringed by miles of barbed wire - injects highly radioactive liquid waste underground.

This is held in what they call "deep wells", 300m- to 400m-deep water-carrying layers sealed by deposits of clay. But they say the waste is safe.

"It is absolutely meaningless to compare this with Chernobyl, as it makes no impact whatever on the environment," Yevgeny Kudryavtsev, head of the nuclear chemical division of Russia's Ministry of Atomic Energy, told *The Independent* yesterday. But the ministry's

opponents, including Bellona, point to the fact that the underground dumps are only a few miles from wells that supply drinking water to the 500,000 residents of the city of Tomsk. They fear a leak, warning that it could one day cause a catastrophe by flooding the food chain with radioactivity.

"This is the biggest dumping ground for such waste in the entire world," said Mr Nielsen. "This also happens to be a few miles from the Tom River, a tributary of the Ob River which flows into the Arctic and the Barents Sea, the fishing ground for the whole of Europe."

Over the years, he said, at least 10kg of plutonium - which will threaten the environment for centuries - has been dumped underground at Tomsk-7, mixed with other liquid waste. There is no known way of extracting and disposing of it.

Bellona believes the law suit, bought by local groups - including a regional organisa-

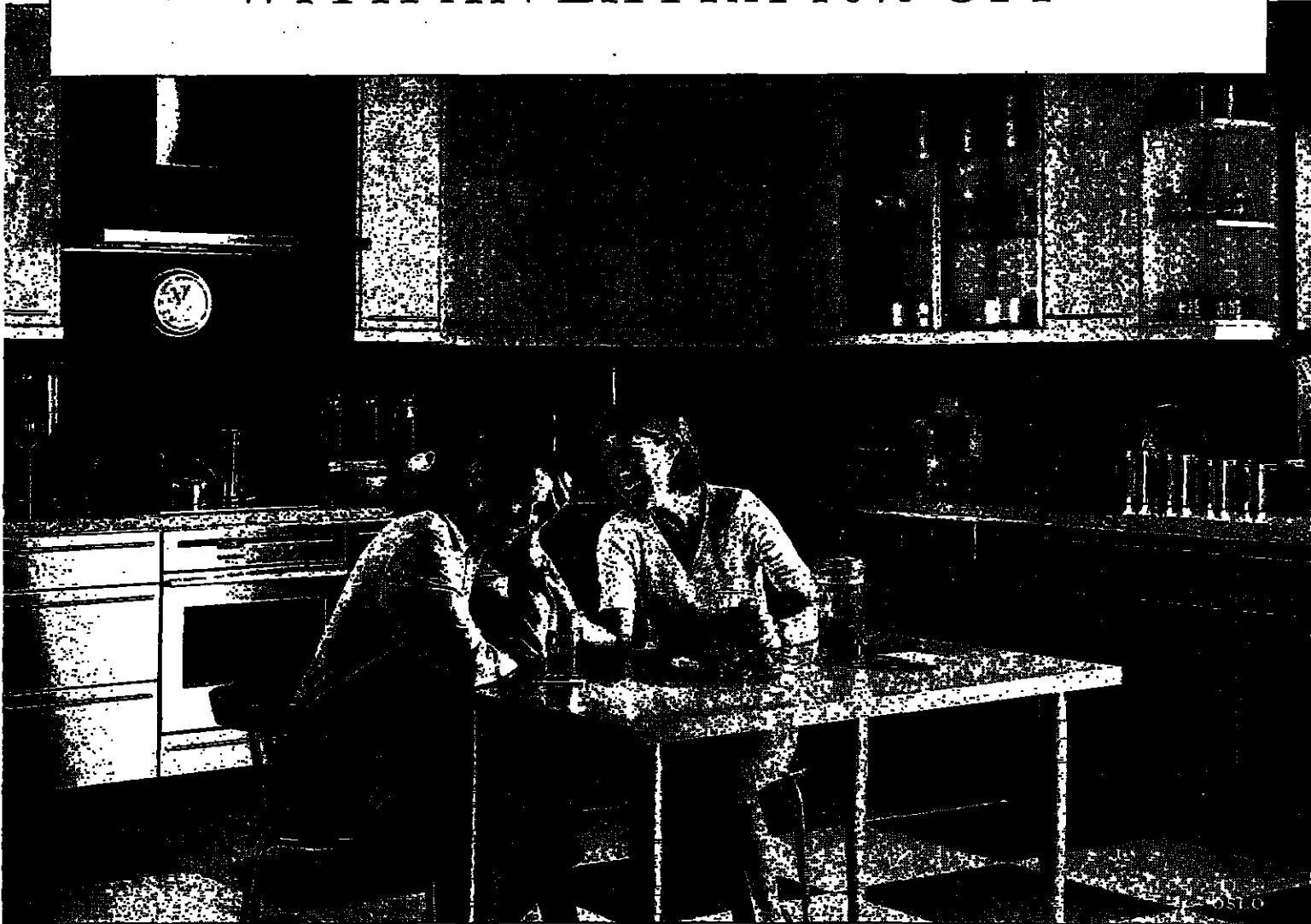
tion called Green World - will be a critical test of the 1993 Russian constitution. This grants the "right to a favourable environment, reliable information on the state of the environment and compensation for damage caused to health and property by violations of environmental laws".

However, the ministry's Mr Kudryavtsev was yesterday bullishly confident about the plant - scene of a serious nuclear accident in 1983, in which a 45-mile surrounding zone was contaminated.

He says the underground dumps are sealed by deposits of clay the "width of a 10-storey building" providing a barrier would last "thousands and thousands" of years. Asked if he could be certain the waste would not one day escape, he replied: "Are you sure that there won't be a nuclear accident in Britain in the next few days? Can you ever be absolutely sure? It is a meaningless question."

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01224 697772

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01506 656685

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01389 755131

Edinburgh, Laidlaw  
0131 669 6261

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Motherwell, Trust  
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Perth, Frews Cars  
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01266 42272

Belfast, J E Coulter  
01232 744744

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01232 654687

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Kosovo Liberation Army take cover in Grabovac, near Pristina, yesterday, but Pristina-based paper *Koha Ditore* (below) is cautious in its reporting of the battles for independence in Kosovo  
Wayne Lovell/Reuters

## Pristina's reporters in a no-chance saloon

SERBIAN TELEVISION calls it "the terrorist newspaper" - which is rather odd, because *Koha Ditore* carries no editorials and no reports with even a hint of opinion in their paragraphs.

When the Kosovo Liberation Army took over a third of the Serbian province, the ethnic Albanian newspaper did not even carry a map to show the KLA's area of control. In the words of one of its brightest young reporters, the 19-year-old Garentina Kraja, "we don't want to be pushy".

Which is another odd thing about *Koha Ditore* - it means "Daily Time" - which sells 30,000 copies on good days after only four years of publication in a province where the Serb authorities have every reason to wish to destroy it.

Robert Fisk, who last night was named as Britain's top journalist at the Amnesty International press awards, concludes his series on Kosovo at the offices of the 'Koha Ditore' newspaper



the mixed marriages in Kosovo have ended in disaster - divorce," Ms Kraja says with near contempt.

Mr Gacaferri is even more dismissive. "Don't look for Romeo and Juliet stories here," he says. A coldness enters our conversation.

*Koha* is printed in the suburbs of Pristina, registered with the local Ministry of Information and therefore legal, up to a point. "If it was closed down, there would be pressure from outside - from journalists and diplomats," Ms Kraja says, with touching faith in the West's power of persuasion in this part of the Balkans.

Another reporter ventures a more interesting reason for *Koha*'s continued existence. "The Serbs don't want tensions here in Pristina and the police want to keep things calm. No one here is revolutionary. No one is throwing stones."

"People turn to us for news and facts because they have nowhere else to look," Ms Kraja says. "People watch Albanian television on satellite and see Euronews on TV, which is pretty dreadful - so we want to give them information. So we have to suppress our feelings when we write. Personally we would prefer independence for Kosovo - but we have to separate news from opinion."

In the *Koha* office canteen, cigarette smoke swirls so thickly that strangers entering the room are overcome with fits of coughing. These are difficult days for Albanian journalists in Pristina as their ethnic political leadership loses power to the KLA.

Ibrahim Rugova, the philosophical - indeed the two philosophical - leader of the Democratic League of Kosovo is now calling for political control over the guerrillas who have virtually cut the city of Pec off from the provincial capital.

With all this to Pec cancelled, *Koha* has temporarily lost one-third of its circulation

but still sells abroad; in Germany, Switzerland, Britain, the Netherlands and, of course, Macedonia. No copies reach Albania itself.

And it takes itself seriously. On an average day, the 16-page tabloid crams seven stories and at least one photograph on to its front page but packs its inside pages with reports from its 13 young journalists (the oldest is 27) and up to 50 stringers. Thirty youngsters work on the news desks with five editors. Many of them sucking news off the Internet or the local Albanian news agency.

The Serb army and police, needless to say, don't co-operate. "They always say that only the commander can speak to us - and he's never available," Nebi Qena says. Clearly, he hasn't worked on a British paper.

But there are other reasons for tension in the newsroom. It's only a few months since the police beat up Veton Surroi, *Koha*'s editor-in-chief, in the streets.

then broke into his office and attacked the paper's administrative director, Luan Dobrositi. A cameraman was chased through the building and threw himself out of a window, breaking his leg on the pavement outside. The staff suspect this was Serb revenge for the visit of a US diplomat to *Koha*'s offices a few days earlier.

"We don't look for scoops and exclusives as such," Vityt Gacaferri says. At 24, he is one of *Koha*'s veteran reporters. "We can say that we gave a voice to the Albanian political opposition and we sometimes carry special features. We had an Imam who wrote a book review and we had a special issue on the death of Mother Teresa." (Who was, of course, an Albanian.)

And the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, I ask coyly? A special issue there? Not a smirk crosses the faces of the journalists. "We carried a lot of stories on her," Mr Gacaferri

says. "We put them on a page headed 'English Culture'." He is still not smiling.

The Serb press, like the state television service, is derogatory about *Koha*. Its reporters ignore the presence of *Koha*'s journalists at press conferences although Belgrade's opposition media - *Borba* and *B-92* radio - report on the Albanian paper's activities.

Each morning *Koha* sends a reporter to the Grand Hotel, a Serb bastion of unwashed carpets and broken elevators in the heart of Pristina, for the Serb media centre's daily bulletin which includes British newspaper reports from Kosovo (which is how *The Independent*'s dispatches sometimes turn up in *Koha*).

So I ask an obvious question. Are there no relations between the journalists? Are there no mixed marriages?

I have heard of an Albanian editor married to a Serb television newsreader. "Most of

"I have written several times that Pristina is sleeping," he says.

"Compared to the rest of Kosovo, nothing happens here. I've written headlines about Pristina being asleep. When the burnings started around Decani, I wrote that 'It's easy to protest in Pristina and then go and drink coffee'."

The reporters try, in their spare time, to keep up with the outside world. They saw *Titanic* but preferred *Pulp Fiction*. Most visited the cinema to see *Michael Collins*, which was popular for its theme of independence. But few Albanians missed *Braveheart*. When William Wallace confronts the English occupation army and then urges his men into battle with the question "What do we have if we don't have freedom?" Albanian audiences went wild.

True to form, however, *Koha* carries no film reviews.

## Albanian leader is left isolated

AS ETHNIC Albanian insurgents made more inroads on the ground, the major powers still insisted there could be no independence for Kosovo, and urged the Albanians' moderate political leadership to enter talks with Yugoslavia for greater autonomy for the province.

"The ball is in the Albanians' court," the Russian Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, said in London yesterday, urging a response to the "breakthrough" achieved during Slobodan Milosevic's visit last week to Moscow, when the Yugoslav President agreed - in theory at least - to begin negotiations on more self-government for Kosovo and its 90 per cent ethnic Albanian majority.

Almost simultaneously in

Bonn, the German government told Ibrahim Rugova, long acknowledged as the political leader of the Kosovo Albanians, that independence was not possible, and that the best he could hope for was a return of the autonomy which Mr Milosevic had stripped from the province back in 1989.

The exchanges leave Mr Rugova, who advocates a non-violent solution of the crisis, in an almost impossible position. Among his compatriots his credibility decreases by the week, as support for the guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army grows along with their gains against Serb security forces and an ever more beleaguered Serb civilian population. Even Mr Primakov



Primakov: 'Mr Rugova is not as powerful as he was'

at Belacevac, west of the capital, Pristina, and according to eyewitnesses are carrying out daylight armed patrols less than 10 miles from the city. Serb morale, KLA fighters claim, is crumbling.

Yet Russia and the Western powers grouped in the six-nation Contact Group, while dealing with Mr Rugova, deprive him of his strongest remaining card with his countrymen, by ruling out the outright independence they and he seek.

Speaking after talks with the German Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, Mr Rugova accused the Serbs of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

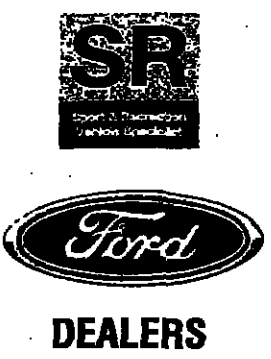
He said the "climate was not right" for talks and reiterated his call for independence. He appealed too for Nato intervention to stop Mr Milosevic's

troops and security forces from driving out any more ethnic Albanians on top of the 65,000 to 80,000 already, estimated to have fled to Albania proper or the neighbouring republic of Montenegro.

But direct military action by the Alliance now looks much less likely. In Belgrade, as he prepared for a second meeting with President Milosevic inside 48 hours, Richard Holbrooke, Washington's Balkan troubleshooter and the UN ambassador-designate, warned against hopes of a quick fix.

"Don't expect this thing [Kosovo] to be settled in a week," he told reporters. "This isn't the last chance for peace, as some of you are writing." A diplomatic process was under way, and the US would give it its "best shot".

on Options



# A city that proves power is the ultimate aphrodisiac

AMERICAN TIMES  
CONNECTICUT AVENUE, WASHINGTON

THEY HAVE been there for weeks, this group of sad, distracted looking young men and women who sit on the pavement, just staring into the middle distance. They wait for people to come out of the smart office blocks, hoping that they will get just a little something to keep them going for another day.

They are not down and outs, though, unless you define the upstanding members of the Washington press corps as mendicants (and many would). We are talking about street people Washington style: the camera crews and reporters who wait outside the offices of Monica Lewinsky's lawyers, staking out the main entrance and car park around the corner. This is only one of several encampments dotted

around the city: there is another one at the federal court where the Lewinsky grand jury sits that forms an impressive tangle of cables and camera positions.

These odd locations become fixed in the memory of Washington residents, informally recognised landmarks. The camera crews seem unaware, but just across the street from them is a reminder of older adulteries. The Mayflower hotel is one of Washington's most comfortable and discreet, which is perhaps why Lyndon B Johnson and John F Kennedy both chose it for liaisons with their mistresses.

Then there is the Capitol Hill town house where Gary Hart met Donna Rice; the room in the Vista Hotel where Mayor Marion Barry smoked crack with a young female friend; and the Jefferson Hotel, where Clinton advisor Dick Morris indulged in foot-licking with a call girl called Sherry Rowlands. (She is alleged to be writing a book called "If you think you know Morris, you don't know Dick".)

These places are of great interest to tourists, for whom they provide welcome relief from the endless trail of monuments. Maxine Atwater of Special Interest Tours takes



visitors around the steamier landmarks of Washington, though she prefers the older scandals because the participants can't answer back, she says. She shows people the Tidal Basin where Wilbur Mills, then the august chairman of the House Ways and



Means Committee, frolicked with a stripper called Fanny Foxe on the steps of the Capitol, where former Congressman John Jenrette had what she politely calls "a romantic interlude" with his wife. At least it was his wife. But they are of even greater interest to

the residents of this great city. It sometimes helps if you think of America as a polytheistic society, worshipping four great gods: power, money, celebrity and sex. These sites, often combining all four, are like roadside shrines to the secular idols. Above all, they help to convince Washingtonians that they live in a sexy city, a place where passion stalks the corridors of power.

The Kennedys brought a whiff of sex to Washington, but most of the White House incumbents have been less than erotically charged.

Jimmy Carter did once confess to "adultery in my heart", but apparently that is where he kept it. Ronald Reagan and his wife were inseparable. And when Bill goes, the most likely incumbent in the White

House is Vice-President Al Gore, a man who looks as if he is more likely to spontaneously combust than to have an extra-marital affair.

Monica Lewinsky has already generated a number of significant locations, shrines to the intersection of sex and power. Continue up Connecticut Avenue, cross over Dupont Circle and you will find Kramer Books, a funky little bookshop with a bar and restaurant attached. It was briefly dragged into the Monica maelstrom, when it emerged that she had bought some presents there for the President.

The authorities went to the absurd lengths of trying to subpoena the sales records for these purchases. One of the books is thought to have been Nicholson Baker's phone sex

book, *Vox*. According to the much-cited tapes recorded by Linda Tripp, Ms Lewinsky and the President of the United States had steamy telephone sessions, perhaps inspired by Mr Baker.

There are a number of bizarre and inexplicable aspects of the relationship between these two, and the more we hear about the Tripp tapes, the stranger it seems. According to *US News and World Report* magazine, "Tripp and Lewinsky discuss an incident in which Lewinsky thought the President was becoming sexually aroused when Lewinsky told him about her Defense Department trip to Bosnia in July 1996."

There is no accounting for taste, especially in Washington.

ANDREW MARSHALL

Zero tolerance comes to Philadelphia's wild north where drugs fuel highest gun murder rate in US

## Police reclaim mean streets

IT IS dusk in Kensington in North Philadelphia, an area that shares only a name with London W8. The tenth day of Operation Sunrise is drawing to a close.

A few desultory prostitutes tout their wares in the darkening corridor of Kensington Avenue that runs beneath the raised suburban railway known as the "El". The scruffy shops and takeaways that were trading an hour ago are now soundly shuttered. There is little indication of life from the two radios and the computer inside Sergeant Joe Sparks' police car: someone with a half-concealed gun is sighted here, there is word of a robbery there and a suspected drug dealer is seen hovering on a corner somewhere else. Police cars - many with the N-number that signals the narcotic division - circle slowly, like sharks in the gloom. In the office of the 24th police district, the only noise is the clatter of typewriter keys.

Down the side streets, an elderly woman is sweeping the pavement in front of her terraced house. Another is hosing down her steps. Some people have brought out their verandas in the cool of the evening, and a few children have opened the fire hydrants to cavort in the jets of water.

To Sgt Sparks, this picture of small-scale normality is little short of miraculous. Until 10 days ago, drugs were traded here in broad daylight. "The customers stood in queues, as

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Philadelphia

though they were in a supermarket," says Sgt Sparks. Then the very idea that people could sweep or hose their steps, let alone let children play in the hydrants was unthinkable. They might get caught in the cross-fire. The only children on the street then were the smart kids on BMXs wearing \$100 (\$50) trainers who "work" as look-outs for the dealers.

Then, a patrol could notch up a dozen or more arrests a shift. Tonight, it is possible that Sgt Sparks and his team of 22 officers could end their shift without even one. For the first time in almost two decades, this would count as a success and not failure.

Just two hours before, the new commissioner of the Philadelphia police, Commander John Timoney, had been addressing Sgt Sparks and other members of the East District special operations division in his first roll-call. Until March, Cdr Timoney - a graduate of the old, tough school of policing - had been deputy head of the New York Police Department and one of the leading lights of the celebrated Zero Tolerance campaign there.

Now, he was telling the policemen setting off for night patrol that he wanted "good, honest, aggressive police work" but nothing "overly aggressive, brutal or corrupt". "There's a line in the sand you must not cross." He warned: "If you go



Two young men walk through one of Philadelphia's ghettos, where crime is still rising

Christopher Pillitz/Newsweek

in like Attila the Hun, kicking ass all over the place, it won't pay off."

Cdr Timoney has inherited a catalogue of failure. Philadelphia, the fifth largest city in America, is one of the few that has not seen a sharp fall in violent crime in the past five years. It has the highest rate of shooting murders in the United States (82 per cent of 409 last year), one of the highest rates of legal gun ownership, and its drug market boasts the purest heroin (79.5 per cent).

Crime maps compiled in Mr Timoney's first month showed East District to have the highest concentration of murder, drug dealing and shooting crime in the city. Operation

Sunrise is said to be the most sweeping police operation here in the past 20 years and is based on the idea that "drugs are the engine that drives all other crime". Sunrise brings together more than a dozen agencies, local, state and federal, from top-level law enforcement to rubbish collection.

The clean-up began with a bang at 8.30am on Monday morning in the heart of East District with a procession of cars, engines and trucks, lights flashing, to advertise their intentions. It was, says Cdr Timoney, designed partly to protect the police and partly to convey the message to the "95 per cent law abiding members of the community", which is more

than half Hispanic, that they had not been abandoned.

The new toughness from the city authorities and police has spawned some strange alliances. Last week, the mayor, Ed Rendell, said he would consider a proposal from the National Rifle Association (NRA) to make Philadelphia the test-bed for their theory that no tougher gun control laws were required, just enforcement of existing laws. Cdr Timoney thinks the NRA as an organisation is "completely nuts", but is all in favour of the mayor's "can-do" interest in enforcement, starting not with the easiest areas, but the toughest in a tough city.

Kensington is typical of a

once respectable blue-collar district gone bad, through a succession of factory closures, depopulation, poverty and drugs. Everyone involved in the clean-up say they are in for "the long haul" - 18 months, two years, as long as it takes - and they are going to need that resolve.

"In four to six weeks, perhaps, the dealers and the addicts will get frustrated because we haven't gone away. They'll attack the barricades, assault police cars, target the police. It's going to get messy, but no one's going to back away," says Larry McEllyn, in charge of the Philadelphia division of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The police have a lot at stake in Kensington, not least be-

cause they have a lot to live down. It was they who, in 1985, were responsible for one of the most spectacularly bungled operations anywhere in the US, when they laid siege to two blocks of West Philadelphia occupied by the anarchist MOVE group, and ended by dropping bombs. "I tell everyone who brings up the MOVE operation, please stop making that analogy," says Inspector Jerry Daley of Special Operations. "It was a low point for our organisation. Such a huge black eye." But he acknowledges: "It's critically important to ensure that a professional job is done here."

Next month, when the temperature rises in every sense, will be the test.

## Facelift addict's \$140,000 a month alimony

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

IN THE latest twist in New York's most closely watched divorce struggle in years, millionaire art dealer Alec Wildenstein has been ordered by an appeals court to pay out the full \$140,000 (\$280,000) that he owes in monthly support payments to his estranged wife, the surgically-enhanced Jocelyne.

With the divorce trial itself still pending, Mr Wildenstein had attempted to persuade the court that he could not afford the sum that had been imposed upon him by a lower court. The Jocelyne camp had retorted, however, that given the lifestyle she had been accustomed to she could not live on anything less.

In siding with Jocelyne, whose startling features are testament to repeated visits to her plastic surgeon, the panel of five justices said Mr Wildenstein, 58, had displayed an "evident lack of candour" about his real income.

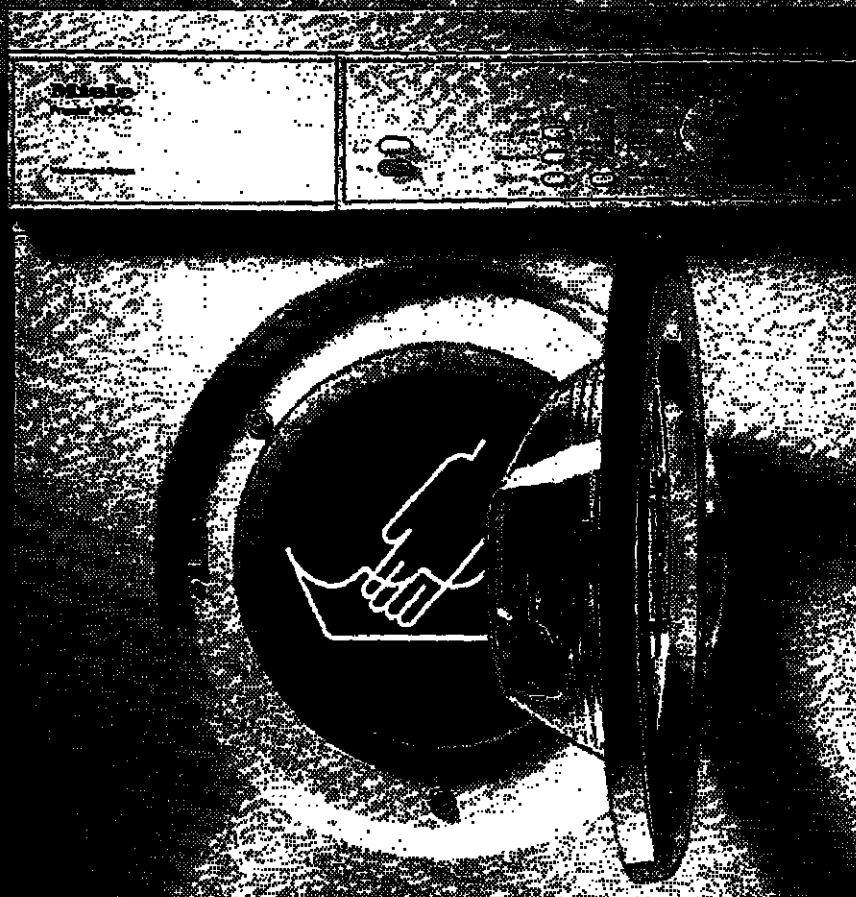
Mr Wildenstein had attempted to argue that most of his money actually belonged to his father, Daniel Wildenstein, who still heads the family art dealing empire in Paris.

Bernard Clair, Ms Wildenstein's lawyer, said his client was "puzzled" about the court's ruling. "What this decision does is confirm that he should support his wife of 20 years according to his means. Justice had been served," he said.

He added: "On a practical level, this sum of money does approximate the lifestyle enjoyed by my client". In his arguments, Mr Clair had pointed out that the couple typically spent more than \$10m a year together until they split in 1996.

Dubbed the "Bride of Wildenstein" by New York tabloid headline writers because of her weirdly stretched visage, Jocelyne will take heart from the court's ruling as the full divorce trial looms.

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# Turkey briefing: Despite its failed bid for full EU membership, the nation hopes to continue its economic growth

## Problems lurking beneath surface

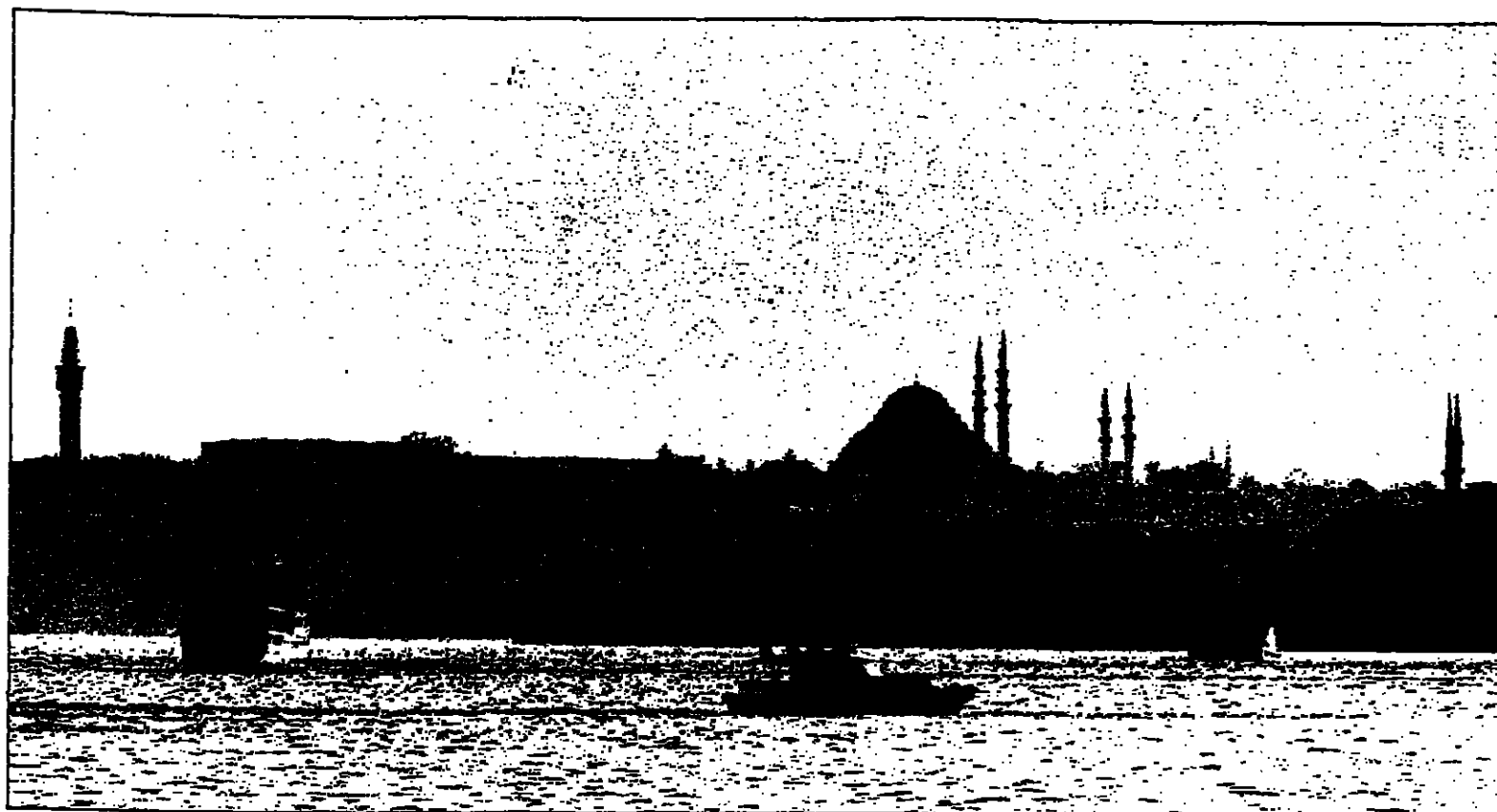
By JUSTIN HUGGLER  
in Istanbul

AT FIRST sight, Turkey is a great success story. Until the 1980s, its economy was cut off from the outside world by protectionism. For the last three years, foreign investment receipts have averaged around \$900m, and the GDP has grown by 7 per cent, according to government statistics. Turkey has entered a customs union with the EU. The state sector's share of the economy has diminished. The country is a multi-party democracy in a region where they are few and far between.

There are still plenty of problems, however. Behind the impressive growth rate lies chronic high inflation. Turkey is bitterly disappointed not to be a candidate for full membership of the EU. But it has done little to improve its poor human rights record, named by the EU as a key factor against the country. A Kurdish insurgency continues in the South-East. Islamism has begun to feature heavily in the country's politics. There have been three military coups since the foundation of modern Turkey and recent events have shown that real power still rests with the generals.

In June 1998, Neurettin Erbakan became Turkey's first Islamist prime minister. A year later he resigned under intense pressure from the military. Mr Erbakan has since been banned from politics and his Welfare Party has been closed.

The principle of secularism is enshrined in Turkey's constitution, and rigidly defended by the military, which has pushed the government and courts towards increasingly draconian methods. Islamist mayors have been sentenced to imprisonment for speeches held to be anti-secular. The current government has been forced to implement a package of anti-Islamist laws which includes a ban on beards



Istanbul, where Europe meets Asia and Islamist politics mix with new alliances with the West

John Voas



TURKEY	
Land area	779,452 sq km*
Population	56.5 million (1990 census)* 65.3 million (1997 estimate)
Religion	No official figures, but majority Sunni Muslim
Language	Turkish
Climate	Temperate. Varies by region. Seasonal extremes in interior. Average annual temperature Ankara: 11.7°C. Average annual rainfall Ankara: 377.7mm*
Government	Multi-party democracy. But in practice the military's recommendations are always followed.
GDP	\$3,157 per capita (1996)*
Visas	Visas required for British passport holders. Routinely issued on arrival for £10

\* Source: State Institute of Statistics

and women's headscarves - both traditional symbols of Islam - in universities.

Islamist MPs, in their new Virtue Party, still form the largest group in parliament but their rhetoric has moderated. Spokesmen now talk of Turkey's place as within the Western alliance, not among Islamic countries. The idea of pan-Islamic currency, suggested during Mr Erbakan's government, has been shelved. Introducing an Islamic legal system "would be crazy", says a senior adviser. The party says it wants to defend freedom of belief in Turkey. There is speculation that it may split into two factions because of internal differences. A minority coalition govern-

ment of three parties took power after Mr Erbakan's resignation. It was expected to be a caretaker government but committed itself to tackling serious areas of policy, although it has had trouble getting legislation through parliament without a majority. Earlier this month Mr Yilmaz made an election pact with an opposition party, promising elections next April in return for support in key areas of legislation. But the pact has strained the coalition, with its smallest member threatening to leave in protest.

The government has begun to tackle inflation, aiming to slow growth this year. A six-month price-freeze on state-sector commodities ends this month. Year-on-year consumer inflation came down from 101.6 per cent in January to 91.4 per cent in May, according to government statistics. Analysts agree that long-term inflation has been caused by chronic budget deficits. A tax-reform bill is in parliament - up to 50 per cent of Turkey's economy is believed to be unregistered for tax and underdeclaring is routine practice. The government has also gained revenue from privatisation.

Turkey's economic success began in the 1980s, with the liberalisation programme pioneered by Turgut Ozal, who emerged as prime minister when the country returned to civilian rule in 1983. Ozal began

to put an end to restrictions on foreign investment and protectionist tariffs.

Today the largest sectors are manufacturing and trade. According to provisional government figures, last year Turkey realised \$26.24bn of exports. Imports were much higher at \$48.58bn. Turkey's foreign trade has been helped by the 1996 customs union with the EU, which abolished trade barriers in most sectors. The economy has proved its resilience by bouncing back from a financial crisis in 1994 which caused GDP to shrink by over 5.5 per cent; in 1995 growth was back to 7.2 per cent. Observers agree that political interference in the economy is still a problem.

Turkey expected the customs union to lead to full membership of the EU. But at last December's Luxembourg summit, the EU effectively rejected Turkey's membership bid for the foreseeable future.

Turkey was offered membership of the European Conference, but declined to attend its meeting in March. Since the Luxembourg summit, Turkey has refused to discuss Cyprus, Aegean disputes with Greece, or human rights with the EU. It rejected an attempt by the British presidency to kick-start relations in May. The Turkish government blames Greece, with which it has a history of acrimony.

One of the reasons the EU gave for rejecting Turkey was its

human rights record. Amnesty International says the situation is improving, but that Turkey still has a long way to go. According to Turkey's Human Rights Association (HRA), so far this year there have been 217 allegations of torture, and 44 claims of death through torture or extra-judicial execution.

In May, the HRA's chairman, Akin Birdal, was seriously wounded in a gun attack, the state was widely criticised for taking no action over press leaks believed to have caused the shooting, which alleged that a captured Kurdish terrorist had accused Mr Birdal of terrorist links.

Kurdish terrorism remains a thorn in Turkey's side. The

South-East has been ravaged by years of guerrilla warfare between the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the Turkish military. Evacuation forced by the military has sent a wave of refugees to the cities of western Turkey, and another of illegal immigrants to the EU.

The PKK says it wants autonomy for the Kurds. A separate Kurdish ethnic identity is not recognised by Turkey, and there are restrictions on use of the Kurdish language. Turkey says its security forces have all but defeated the PKK. But as recently as April a small bomb in Istanbul's tourist district caused foreign visitors minor injuries and raised the spectre of attacks on tourists.

## Markets offer a bumpy but profitable ride

"NOT FOR the faint of heart," is how John T. McCarthy, ING Barings' Turkey Country Manager, describes the equity market on the Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE). Nevertheless, since it opened in 1986, the ISE has grown impressively. It has two main markets: equity and bonds and bills.

There is also a small international stock exchange with duty-free trading in hard currency and there are plans to open a futures and derivatives market soon. There is also a small gold market outside the jurisdiction of the ISE.

In 1996 the average daily trading value on the equity market was \$50,000; in the first five months of 1998 it was \$550m, according to ISE figures. "In the last 12 years we increased the market capital from under \$1bn to \$60bn," says Huseyin Erkan, Executive Vice Chairman of the ISE. "Think how good it could have been with political stability."

Although the general trend is upward, the market is volatile. The ISE says foreign investors hold 53 per cent of the stock, but only account for 10

per cent of daily trade, because they generally make longer-term investments than locals.

The Turkish government's high borrowing requirement crowds out the domestic borrowing market and offers high yield on treasury bills: 15-30 per cent a year in dollar terms. According to the ISE, the average daily trading value on the bonds and bills market up to the end of May was \$1.7bn. Over 75 per cent of daily trade is made up of reverse-purchase agreements by which the buyer agrees to sell back the bond after a set period, usually overnight.

The government wants to lengthen the maturity of its debt, and is trying to shift more of its borrowing onto bonds. Foreign investors are present but are in the minority.

Overall foreign investment in Turkey climbed drastically between 1987 and 1991 as Turkey's market opened up: annual direct receipts soared from \$171m to \$916m, according to government figures. They fell in 1993 and in 1994's financial crisis but rose again and since 1995 have remained

steady around the \$900m mark. Foreign investment is largest in the car, banking, trade and food sectors.

Turkey's efforts to draw foreign investment into its state enterprises have had a history of frustration. The country tried to attract private capital to its energy and infrastructure projects via the build-operate-transfer model, where an investor builds a facility and operates it for a set period of time to recoup investment and make a profit, before ownership reverts to the state.

This was successful in attracting Turkish private capital, but was severely limited as a lure for foreign investment when the constitutional court ruled that international arbitration over contractual disputes was illegal. The government insists projects still attract some interest.

Turkey's other scheme to attract private investment is to sell off some of its extensive state-owned sector. Privatisation has been on the agenda since Turgut Ozal's reforms in the Eighties, but progress has been very slow in the face of nu-

merous political and legal challenges.

But political opposition seems to have fallen away, and legal difficulties seem to have been overcome for now. So far this year, the government has already broken all records for privatisation revenue.

In April, two licenses to operate mobile phone networks were sold for a total of \$1bn. In May, state-owned shares in Is Bank, the largest private bank, were sold for over \$600m. Next on the agenda are stakes in THY, the national airline; Turk Telekom, the land-line telephone company; and Petrol Ofisi petrol supplier. The Treasury says the petrol sale could be "in the billions".

One problem which remains with privatisation is the government's policy of retaining stakes in some enterprises. This exposes investors to the risk of being involved in an enterprise managed for political rather than economic ends. And Turkish governments don't have a good record. As Mr McCarthy puts it: "You're in for a ride with a driver whose proven to be a drunk driver."

## Tourism's faltering success

IT IS surprising that Turkey's tourism industry took so long to develop, considering the resources the country has to offer.

Its chief asset is its long coast line along the Aegean and Mediterranean seas, but Turkey also has a vast wealth and range of cultural monuments, including the mosques and Byzantine churches of Istanbul, and the ruins of ancient Ephesus, and dramatic landscapes like the chimneys rock formations of Cappadocia. Mountain terrain are proving ideal for trekking and ski resorts have been developed.

The country's tourist industry is starting to promote faith tourism to its many Muslim and Christian pilgrimage sites and it has the natural resources to cater for specialist interests, like bird-watching and caving.

But Turkish tourism did not seriously develop its potential until the mid-Eighties. The country's relative poverty meant it could offer value for money. The Government offered incentives to investors in

order to develop infrastructure. The industry boomed. Now, says the Ministry of Tourism, it is the fastest growing sector of the economy and the fastest developing source of employment.

In 1980, 1.3 million tourists arrived and the country realised only \$326m in receipts, according to Tursab, the local association of tour operators. In 1997, there were 9.7 million visitors, and \$7bn of receipts.

Receipts have grown by over 18 per cent for the last two years, but so far this year they are down. Tursab blames declining incomes in EU countries and increased competition from other Mediterranean destinations. Devaluation of the Greek drachma and reduction of VAT in Spain have made holidays in those countries cheaper.

The Ministry agrees with the analysis and blames the football World Cup as well. But Tursab says the government has not done enough to help tourism. "They don't agree that tourism is a major sector of the

economy," says Erol Karabulut, Research and Development Director at Tursab. "We contribute \$8bn to total exports of \$25bn but the government doesn't give us any special attention. But this year is the breaking point. Now the market's been declining, they want to help."

But Mustafa Siyabhan, Assistant General Director of the Ministry disagrees. "I would say the government has provided considerable assistance. Most of the bed capacity was created with assistance from the government. But I would agree we need to help more with marketing."

The Ministry says this year it will have run advertising campaigns through the media of 43 countries by the end of June. The government is also investing in its transport infrastructure, with new international terminals opening at Antalya and Istanbul airports.

The types of incentive currently on offer investors in tourism include long-term grants of government-owned

land at lower rents, tax exemptions, import rights, the right to employ foreign staff, and low utility rates. But incentives are no longer on offer for the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts. The Ministry is worried that overdevelopment is destroying Turkey's tourist assets.

Overdevelopment has also left the Mediterranean with too many hotels. The Ministry and tour operators are working together to entice visitors to new destinations, like the relatively under developed Black Sea coast and south-east Anatolia.

The South-East offers a number of cultural and religious monuments, but its tourism potential has been devastated by Kurdish terrorism in the area. Now, with the terrorists pushed further east and out of urban centres, the industry is hoping to persuade tourists that the area is safe. "It's so hard to make people go. If they go and see what's going on, their opinions will change," says Mr Karabulut.

JUSTIN HUGGLER

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# BUSINESS

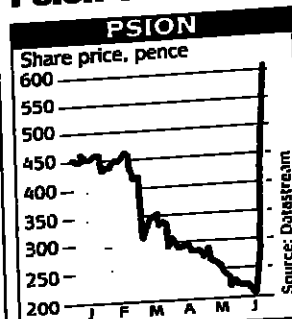
## BRIEFING

### Hampel 'supercode' published

THE FINAL version of the Hampel "supercode" on corporate governance was published yesterday. The final version of the code - which is virtually identical to the draft published earlier this year - combines the existing Cadbury and Greenbury codes in an attempt to produce a definitive guide to best practice in corporate governance. The code has attracted criticism from corporate governance specialists, many of whom believe it will be unable to prevent many corporate abuses.

Outlook, page 19

### Pson shares soar further



Shares in Pson continued their meteoric rise yesterday in the wake of the hand-held computer maker's software joint venture, which it announced on Tuesday. The shares jumped 179.5p to 602.5p, an all-time high. They have now trebled in value in the past week. Pson's link-up with mobile phone makers Ericsson, Nokia and Motorola gives the company a chance of becoming the industry standard in the market for smart mobile phones and hand-held computers.

### Rethink on dividend tax

THE TREASURY is next week expected to make a last-minute change to a key plank of its July Budget after being warned it would unfairly rebound on more than half a million shareholders who are too poor to pay tax.

Geoffrey Robinson MP, the paymaster general, is on Tuesday expected to table an amendment to give relief to pensioners, children and unemployed shareholders who would be hit by the centre-piece of Gordon Brown's July Budget, the abolition of dividend tax credits.

The abolition was attacked by the Opposition last year for its effect on pension funds, which the Treasury estimated would get up to £5bn a year less in tax reliefs.

But it has since emerged it will also hit more than 300,000 non-taxpaying pensioners who supplement their pension with dividend income. According to Age Concern, which met Mr Robinson yesterday, some pensioners are set to lose hundreds of pounds each, while the Treasury would gain just £50m.

- Andrew Verity

## Air France's £2bn aid is ruled illegal

A STATE handout worth £2bn to bail out Air France was ruled illegal and should not have received approval from the European Commission, a Brussels court ruled yesterday.

A European Union court said in a landmark ruling that the Commission had wrongly approved the rescue package to the French national airline in 1994. In one of the 15-nation bloc's most controversial state aid cases, the Luxembourg-based Court of First Instance attacked the Commission's written approval for the aid as flawed.

Although competition has come to Europe's skies, many airlines have been recipients of large slabs of cash from national governments. The ruling could mean that part of the £2bn granted in aid to European airlines since 1991 is returned to national governments.

The sums could be huge. Since 1990, Spain's Iberia has received more than £1.5bn in state aid despite, according to consultants McKinsey, having the most "inefficient" pilots in the world. Other major beneficiaries have been Greece's Olympic and Air Portugal -

BY RANDEEP RAMESH  
Transport Correspondent

each received more than £1bn. The court pointed out that the Commission failed to provide adequate written reasoning for Air France's purchase of 17 new aircraft, which gave the airline a considerable advantage over rivals on long-haul transatlantic routes.

The multi-billion pound subsidy to the loss-making French carrier was approved on the condition that the carrier sold off a stake in Meridien Hotels, separated the operations of domestic airline Air Inter, and paid back a £100m loan obtained under preferential rates.

However, its rivals were not impressed and six European airlines, headed by British Airways, launched a court challenge last year.

Both the Commission and Air France dismissed speculation the ruling may mean that the £2bn handout would have to be paid back to the French government.

A spokeswoman for Neil Kinnoch, the EU Transport Commissioner who approved the subsidy, said there was no ques-

tion of Air France being asked to repay the money, at least while the Commission was "examining" what action to take.

The legal wrangling is likely to continue. The Commission, which has to respond by the end of July, could appeal to a higher court or might "re-argue" its case differently.

BA said that some monies could be returned - and pointed out that the cash spent on the new aircraft should be clawed back from the company.

Air France's rivals were quick to applaud the judges' decisions. "This sends a clear message to every state airline in Europe that the future lies in private hands, not in the pocket of the taxpayer," said BA's spokesman in Brussels, Andre Clodong.

Hans Ollongren, director of European and public affairs at Scandinavian airline SAS, said it was a "legal landmark". SAS had complained because state aid distorted competition.

However, the Commission said the ruling had no bearing on any other state aid decisions in the aviation sector nor on state aid policy in general.

Outlook, page 19



A landmark ruling by an EU court says the European Commission's written approval of a £2bn state rescue of Air France in 1994 was flawed. Rex Features

## Brussels gets tough on BA/American merger

BRITISH AIRWAYS will be forced to accept tough conditions on airport runway slots and route dominance in exchange for EU clearance for its planned merger with American Airlines, the EU's Competition Commissioner, Karel Van Miert, said in an interview with The Independent.

Mr Van Miert is expected to recommend approval of the deal to forge the world's most powerful airline alliance on 8 July. But he will attach the condition that BA relinquish, for free, more than 250 slots at Heathrow airport to ensure fair access for smaller rivals such as British Midland and Virgin.

Slot surrender on its own will not be enough, however: the alliance will also have to agree

BY KATHERINE BUTLER  
In Brussels

to reduce the number of flights it operates on the most lucrative routes, said Mr Van Miert.

The Commission's opening bid was that BA give up 350 slots at Heathrow, but an agreed formula is likely to reduce this to between 260 and 270. Mr Van Miert told The Independent that the total number of slots to be given up will be determined by the strict application of the formula. "The number of slots will be the outcome of the implementation of a method. So it's not up for negotiation," he said.

The outstanding bone of contention is the Commission's demand that BA and American reduce the number of flights the

partnership operates on the busiest routes, including London-New York, at least during the first six months. Mr Van Miert has set the threshold for routes which would come under this restriction at 120,000 passengers a year.

He said the focus of discussions was now between the Commission and Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade. The DTI has been asked to supply the latest passenger figures for a number of disputed routes which fall in or near the threshold.

"What is still being checked is which routes fall above or below the threshold, and so which will form part of the investigation. It's a route where there are few passengers, obviously that is one thing, but if



Karel Van Miert: strict formula for runway slots

the number of passengers flying that destination is above the limit then it will be in the investigation... We need the most recent figures," he said.

American Airlines chiefs were reported yesterday to have offered to postpone the alliance until competitor airlines had enough Heathrow slots to operate 14 return transatlantic flights. But this would not meet the Commission's demand on slot numbers.

Mr Van Miert said selling slots off to rivals was "absolutely out of the question". British Airways had procured slots at Heathrow for free, he said, adding: "This is about meeting competition concerns and making sure there is access for other competitors. On several routes there will be no competition any more or the alliance will have a dominant position... If you allowed them to sell the slots, then above and beyond the considerable com-

petition problems which are already there, you would be creating additional problems."

Mr Van Miert has allowed input into the evaluation from Neil Kinnoch, the EU Transport Commissioner, who has wanted to see a more lenient approach than a "purist" regulatory attitude. But Mr Van Miert said the conditions had to be able to stand up to legal challenge.

Mr Van Miert said BA management had been "naïve" and "misguided" to think they could simply push the merger through with no strings being attached by Brussels.

Mr Van Miert is also expected to rule on a planned alliance between Lufthansa of Germany and United Airlines of the US on 8 July.

## Pension review could cripple smaller IFAs

MORE THAN 1,000 firms of independent financial advisers could go out of business because of the cost of completing the second phase of the pension mis-selling review, the Government was warned yesterday.

In evidence to the Treasury select committee the IFA Association, a trade body representing advisers, said the review's second phase could represent a crippling blow to many smaller firms.

Garry Heath, head of the trade body, said: "Unlike insurance companies, at the end of the day IFAs are going to have to pay from their own pockets. In phase one, IFAs really didn't have too many cases and there have been enough problems anyway. Now we are going to phase two, which is five or six times the size."

BY ANDREW VERITY

The second phase of the review will cover around 985,000 cases where younger people transferred their occupational pension rights to personal pensions. Estimates by the Financial Services Authority, the City watchdog, show IFAs will be responsible for reviewing 42 per cent of the total, costing £2.5bn. Shared between 3,500 firms of advisers, this works out at over £300,000 per firm. According to the IFA Association, the average annual turnover of an IFA firm is around £200,000.

IFAs say the cost of compensation has risen not because of poor advice but because of changed economic conditions. Under the FSA's review, IFAs must determine whether customers have lost money by

using long-term interest rates to work out the retirement income they can expect.

However, since the review began these rates have sunk from more than 12 per cent to less than 7 per cent. This brings many more customers into the category of having suffered a financial loss.

Mr Heath said IFAs accepted people had lost when they were entitled to an employer's scheme but opted for a personal pension. But most of the second phase is concerned with transfers where people were not eligible for a company scheme. Without the fall in annuity rates, many customers would have lost little, says the association.

"We do gag a bit on the second phase of the review because we think we gave pretty good advice," Mr Heath said.

ROBERT FLEMING, the privately-owned British investment bank, yesterday blamed the continuing Asian turmoil for a 14 per cent drop in profits.

The bank earned pre-tax profits of £136.1m for the 12 months to March, compared to £157.7m the previous year. Contributions from Jardine Fleming, its Hong Kong-based joint venture, were just £12m, compared to £38m last year.

John Manser, chairman, said: "Our profits were affected by the difficult conditions in Asia where all of the markets in which Jardine Fleming operates experienced significant falls in value last year. Outside Asia, revenues reached their highest levels ever, a testimony to the success of our diversification strategy."

In a statement, Flemings

BY LEA PATERSON

said: "The situation in Asia continues to be difficult and its impact on the global economy is uncertain."

Mr Manser stressed that the bank remained committed to Jardine Fleming, and would support it with resources where necessary. The bank did not disclose whether it intended to lay off any staff in the troubled Asian region of operations.

Flemings - which is still owned by descendants of Robert Fleming, the bank's founder - made its routine commitment to its independence despite the wave of flotations that has recently swept through the financial sector.

The bank said: "There are advantages to being privately owned and independent. We

have no plans to change things for the foreseeable future."

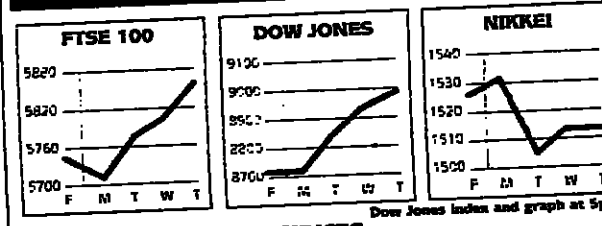
The securities and capital markets division "recorded a creditable overall performance" despite the Asian turmoil, according to Flemings. Both corporate finance and banking had a good year, with Flemings' commercial banking division achieving record profits.

In asset management, the bank recorded a 63 per cent increase in European funds under management, which now stand at £5.3bn. Flemings said that Rowe Price-Flemings International (RPFI), its US operation, and Save & Prosper made particularly good contributions to profits.

Despite the fall in profits, 1998 dividends per share were increased by 0.5p to 25.5p.

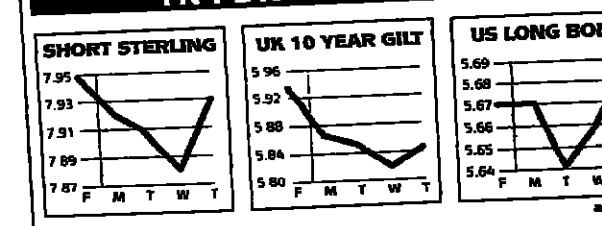
## Fleming profits fall 14% on Asian turmoil

### STOCK MARKETS



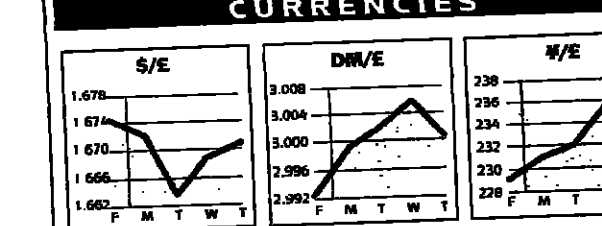
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5820.90	54.00	0.93	6150.50	4382.80	3.91
FTSE 250	5227.70	21.30	0.39	5970.90	4384.20	3.48
FTSE 350	2824.70	23.30	0.83	2940.10	2161.80	3.83
FTSE All Share	2755.73	21.69	0.79	2872.04	2106.59	3.79
FTSE SmallCap	2617.50	6.00	0.23	2793.00	2182.10	3.13
FTSE Fledgling	1430.60	3.20	0.22	1517.10	1223.20	3.17
FTSE AIM	1097.20	6.20	0.57	1148.90	965.90	1.14
FTSE EBLCC 100	1046.13	20.81	2.01			
Dow Jones	9098.35	75.48	0.85	9261.91	6971.32	1.59
Nikkei	15132.22	9.04	0.06	20910.79	14488.21	1.01
Hank Seng	8665.83	369.06	4.45	16820.31	7351.68	4.73
Dax	5866.63	86.72	1.50	5787.70	3487.24	2.76

### INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	5 year	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.81	0.94	8.00	0.63	5.84	-1.24	5.44	-1.68
US	5.69	-0.09	5.81	-0.29	5.50	-0.95	5.69	-1.04
Japan	0.59	-0.04	0.61	-0.28	1.51	-1.20	2.02	-1.18
Germany	3.56	0.44	3.88	0.61	4.78	-0.91	5.35	-1.12

### CURRENCIES



	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago		at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6705	+0.022	1.6632	Sterling	0.5986	-0.086	0.6013
D-Mark	3.0012	-0.51p	2.8707	D-Mark	1.7958	-0.61p	1.7233
Yen	237.07	+¥2.33	189.29	Yen	141.70	+¥1.00	113.80
E index	106.50	0.00	101.30	5 index	112.60	+0.00	102.40

### OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago		Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	12.07	-0.34	18.04	GDP	114.80	3.00	111.46
Gold (\$)	293.05	0.30	337.35	RPI	163.90	4.20	156.91
Silver (\$)	5.29	-0.04	4.77	Base Rates	7.50	6.50	

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

### TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.6705	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.47
Austria (schillings)	20.44	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2793
Belgium (francs)	60.13	New Zealand (\$)	3.1111
Canada (\$)	2.3878	Norway (krone)	12.38
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8497	Portugal (escudos)	294.83
Denmark (krone)	11.16	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0806
Finland (markka)	8.9002	Singapore (\$)	2.6370
France (francs)	9.7592	Spain (pesetas)	246.49
Germany (marks)	2.9217	South Africa (rand)	8.7581
Greece (drachma)	490.84	Sweden (krone)	12.85
Hong Kong (\$)	12.53	Switzerland (francs)	2.4497
Ireland (pounds)	1.1525	Thailand (bahts)	61.79
India (rupees)	65.30	Turkey (liras)	425120
Israel (shekels)	5.6458	USA (\$)	1.6302
Italy (lira)	2882		
Japan (yen)	230.73		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.2621		
Malta (lira)	0.6306		

Rates for indication purposes only Source: Thomas Cook

### AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

#### LONDON

BLUE CHIPS moved ahead for the third consecutive session with Footsie closing 34 points higher at 5,858.9. The index, with financials strong, was at one time up 81 points. Second-liners ended an 11-day decline as the mid cap index recorded a 21.3 gain to 5,527.7.

Although the Asian crisis continued to damage some shares, such as Rolls-Royce, off 10.5p to 236p, sentiment was helped by hopes that President Clinton's visit to China will bring some stability to the Far East. After Wednesday's Derek Pain, page 23

#### NEW YORK

US STOCKS stormed higher yesterday, led by technology, as Wall Street took a more positive view of corporate America's second-quarter earnings and the Asian crisis.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 67 points, or 0.77 per cent, to 8991 by midday.

Earlier, the average managed to cross the 9,000 mark briefly.

"President Clinton's visit to China is renewing the appetite for technology stocks," said Peter Cardillo, director of research at Westfall Investments.

#### TOKYO

THE JAPANESE stock market was little changed yesterday as participants waited for more details of how the government would help bail out the nation's troubled banking system.

Yen weakness and an overnight rally in New York tech shares helped support Japan's high-tech exporters for a second day. The Nikkei 225 average rose 9.04 points, or 0.06 percent, to 15,132.22. For a second day, Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan was the most actively traded issue. The bank, briefly fell to 50 yen before recovering to 58.

#### PARIS

French stocks edged higher yesterday, led by Rhodia after the world's third-biggest chemicals company traded for the first time after its spin-off. Banks also advanced on profit optimism.

The CAC 40 Index rose 77.48 points, or 1.88 per cent, to 4203.81, the biggest gain in six sessions and just 4.79 points off its record high. Rhodia gained 30 francs, or 21 per cent, to 170 on its first day of trading after Rhone-Poulenc sold 33 per cent of the company at 140 francs a share in an initial public offering.

#### GERMANY

THE DAX Xetra Index surged to a closing high yesterday, led by carmakers Daimler-Benz and BMW, and boosted by gains in the US stock market.

The index rose 102.31 points, or 1.77 percent, to 5886.71, surpassing the closing high of 5799.23 reached on June 10. In floor trading, the DAX Index of 30 leading shares surged 86.72 points to an all-time high of 5886.63. Daimler-Benz gained 5.65 marks to 177.2 (\$98.61). Daimler is benefiting as the subscription period for its new shares ended, traders said.

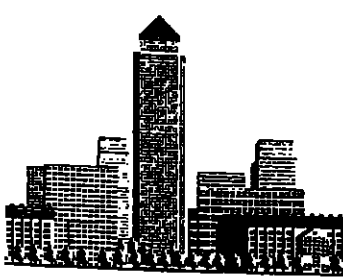


# All is in the presentation with coal

LEAFING THROUGH the usual pile of anonymously leaked memos and confidential documents that daily arrive through the post, we stumbled across a letter, apparently sent about a week ago, by Alastair Campbell to Margaret Beckett at the Board of Trade, copied to the PM. In the interests of open government, we here reproduce it.

Dear Margaret, This really isn't good enough, not good enough at all. I've just been reading your proposed statement to the House on the energy review and I can tell you right now that you are not saying anything of the kind. Don't forget. There's a reshuffle coming up and everyone's expendable, even me, so let's get it straight. This energy review thing is nothing to do with saving miners' jobs. You are certainly not to say that you've guaranteed a market for coal that will safeguard the pits.

Don't get me wrong. I love the miners as much as you, though that Richard Budge can go take a jump as far as I'm concerned. But we have a wider constituency to satisfy now - the free market. And markets don't take kindly to the sort of meddling that we're about to get up to. So we are going to present it this way, alright. You will say that the



## OUTLOOK

Government will not be subsidising coal or guaranteeing a market for it, but instead will be addressing the serious distortions that exist in the electricity pool which disadvantage coal to the detriment of consumers. Clever eh?

We all know that the simplest way to have done this would simply be to tell the generators to buy more coal and stop the building of any more gas-fired power stations, but in the modern, globalised world you are not allowed to do that sort of thing. The approach will be to blame it all on the electricity pool and the profiteering generators. I don't understand how the pool works, you don't understand how the

pool works, nobody in their right mind would take time to understand it, so we'll get away with it, right?

What we'll say is that no more gas-fired stations can be built until we've ironed out the distortions in the pool. That'll give coal a reprieve long enough for everyone to forget this whole silly business ever happened, which I'm sure you'll agree is the object of the exercise. What happens after that is of no concern.

Yours Truly (sorry, Alastair).

## Pyrrhic victory over Air France

ONE OF the most infuriating things about the European Union is its tendency to slam the door after the horse has long since bolted. The wheels of justice grind exceedingly slow in anything to do with Brussels, but the Luxembourg-based Court of First Instance finally got round to ruling yesterday that the European Commission had been wrong to sanction a \$2.3bn package of rescue aid for Air France, originally granted more than four years ago. However, having eventually come to the "right" judgment, it is not immedi-

ately apparent the Brussels machine can or will do anything about it.

The Commission's original decision was always an outrageous one, notwithstanding the fact that, since airlines don't operate in properly competitive markets, it may not be appropriate to expect them and the governments who sponsor them to act as if they do. Even the mighty British Airways was sped into the private sector on the back of a huge write-off of government debt. Its extraordinary monopoly of slots at Heathrow might be viewed as another form of state aid altogether.

Even so, it is plainly unfair that now highly efficient private sector airlines like BA be forced to operate against ones kept alive on a constant diet of state handouts. In any other business, many of these airlines would long since have gone to the wall. In the case of Air France, moreover, some of the aid was immediately splashed out on 17 new aircraft, which helped give the airline a competitive edge on long haul transatlantic routes. No amount of fancy language could dress this up as a "restructuring" expense, the only sort of state aid allowed under European rules.

So can Air France now be forced to hand the money back? Ex, prob-

ably not. For a start, it is not obvious the judgment requires any action, and if it doesn't that would allow the Commission to adopt a "point taken" stance and then move on to other business. Nor is it obvious that Air France could in practice pay back all or even some of the money without becoming insolvent. We're all in favour of a rigid adherence to the rules of fair competition but to knock a competitor out of the market altogether in their name might seem just a little counter-productive.

British Airways and others who complained to the Commission about the aid may have scored a victory, but it is all too likely to prove a pyrrhic one. The chances of anything coming of it look remote. All the same, an important marker has been laid down. This is the single European market now. We betide anyone who tries that state aid stuff again.

## A supercode of tedious flannel

MENTION THE phrase "corporate governance" at a City drinks party these days and you can guarantee that eyes across the room will glaze over. The issue of what does and

does not constitute good boardroom practice is about as far away as you can get from a political hot potato at the moment. Not surprisingly, therefore, the publication yesterday of the final version of the Hampel supercode was greeted by a round of barely stifled yawns.

But even if corporate governance was the hottest topic around, it's hard to imagine that the new supercode could ever make the blood run hot. The code - a remarkably flimsy pamphlet, given the amount of work that has supposedly gone into it - is a hotchpotch of tedious flannel and the downright obvious.

Try this for size: "When evaluating companies' governance arrangements, institutional investors should give due weight to all relevant factors." You don't say. And then there's this little gem: "Institutional shareholders have a responsibility to make considered use of their votes. Here's another: 'Boards should use the AGM to communicate with private investors.' So that's the point of an annual general meeting of shareholders, is it?"

None of this is to say that corporate governance is an unimportant issue. It is easy to be

complacent about corporate governance when we're at the top of the economic cycle, and the Maxwells of this world are nothing more than a dark and distant memory. But when the downturn comes - as it seems to be with gathering speed - you can bet the abuse and malpractice will come crawling out of the woodwork. Recession, it is often said, is like a withdrawing tide, exposing the corporate wrecks that lie beneath the waves.

What we need is a code with teeth - not a code that tiptoes around the issues. Perhaps more important, we also need a radical change in our shareholding culture. The determined rotten apple will always be able to circumvent even the strictest, most rigorously enforced code on corporate governance.

What can make a real difference, are institutional shareholders who take a genuine interest in the company's health, who liaise with the company on a regular basis and are not afraid to make their opinions heard. We must continue to expect the worst as long as the owners of our companies remain so apathetic. Certainly they only have themselves to blame if things go wrong for them.



Queues could be a thing of the past with Asda's triple attack on the home shopping market

Daily Record

## New moves to make shopping come home

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

ASDA YESTERDAY announced a three-pronged attack on the home shopping market with plans to launch a grocery home delivery service, an on-line home entertainment offer and a digital television channel selling non-food lines like its George range of clothing.

The move adds further impetus to the small but growing market in home delivery services offered by large supermarkets. Asda's rivals such as Tesco, Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer are already testing home shopping schemes, although so far only Iceland has extended its scheme nationally. Commenting on the new initiatives yesterday, Allan Leighton, Asda's chief executive, said: "This is research and development. We don't know how big this market will be. But these schemes will enable us to take market share in areas where we are currently under-represented."

The difference between Asda's scheme and those of its competitors is that it will be run from a central facility rather than from individual stores. Asda is setting up a warehouse and call centre in south London that will enable it to target 450,000 customers in a six-mile radius in which it has no stores. Total investment will be £5m.

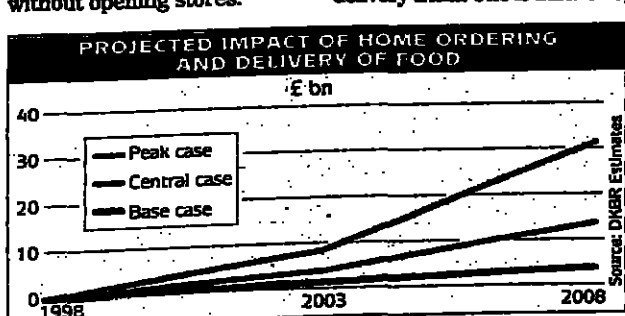
Asda has yet to price the service, but it is likely to be cheaper than the £4 to £5 fee charged by rivals. Asda says the warehouse will be able to cope with 1,000 orders per week but will break even at 500 orders at an average value of £300.

Customers choose their goods from a paper catalogue and then place their order through to the call centre. They will then be given a two-hour "window" during which their

### News Analysis: Every major UK supermarket is testing or offering home delivery. But is it profitable?

shopping will be delivered. Mr Leighton said: "We have searched the world looking at various models on home delivery and hardly anyone is making money out of it. The only way is to have a dedicated centre because running them out of the back of a store just cannibalises sales."

He said the best models he had found were Peapod and ShopLink, both based in the United States and both run from central warehouses. Asda is strong in the Midlands and the North, but only has a 7 per cent market share within the M25 around London. Home delivery will enable it to add sales without opening stores.



The second part of the new initiative will see Asda start selling books, CDs and videos on-line later this year, offering more than 1.2 million titles. The Internet offer will eventually also cover grocery orders. The third part of the plan is a new Asda television channel that will be launched later this year on digital satellite TV. It will start with a dozen six-minute "programmes" devoted to Asda's Christmas ranges. City analysts welcomed the home delivery move, which they said could give Asda a

competitive advantage over its rivals. Simon Dunn, food retail analyst at Dresner Kleinwort Benson, said: "The key differences are that they are doing it from a stand-alone warehouse which is different to just about any other retailer in Britain. And they are doing it where they don't have any stores."

According to his research, home delivery could take 10 per cent of the UK food retail market within the next 10 years, a figure equivalent to £15bn in sales.

Mr Dunn thinks there are two main reasons for the UK supermarkets starting home delivery trials. One is defensive;

ing schemes in order to learn."

It is no coincidence that every major UK supermarket has started a home shopping trial in the last two years. Sainsbury's is now running one from 32 stores. It costs £5 for home delivery and £3.50 if customers come to the store themselves to collect their shopping.

Tesco Direct runs from 11 stores and costs £4. Safeway is operating a simpler "Collect & Go" scheme from its Basingstoke branch, which costs £2. Somerfield is running a scheme from 35 outlets and will extend it nationally later this year. Iceland has already launched a nationwide home delivery service and is being rewarded with a huge leap in sales.

They are following supermarkets in the US which have been operating trials for some time. Few make money, and most have been run from within stores, which means the cost base and risk of cannibalisation are higher. However, some US firms have expressed interest in signing joint ventures that could see them start operating schemes in the UK. Clive Vaughan of Verdict, the retail consultancy, feels home delivery services will have a role to play, but will not capture the 10 per cent to 20 per cent share some have predicted. "It is not for lower-income groups, and people will still want to visit the store for their fresh foods," he said. He could see a growing market for "collect and go" schemes that cover packaged food such as cereals and canned goods.

"The supermarket groups are doing this because of fear. They don't want to miss out if it does turn out to be a big market and someone else has come in and taken it. But it is not the death of the supermarket. If it accounts for 5 per cent of the sector in 15 to 20 years' time I will be amazed," said Mr Vaughan.

## Export orders hit 15-year low as trade gap continues to widen

BRITISH manufacturers are facing the lowest level of export orders for more than 15 years, according to an industry survey yesterday, as figures showed that the trade gap continued to widen in April and May.

Orders in the home market have weakened too, the Confederation of British Industry reported. Manufacturers expect no rise in their output over the next four months, while their expectations for pushing through price rises at the factory gate are the lowest ever recorded by the survey.

But even with such gloom hanging over manufacturing, most economists expect the Bank of England will raise the cost of borrowing again because of inflation pressures elsewhere in the economy.

The UK was £1.4bn in the red

BY DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

in trade in goods in April, an improvement from March's £1.5bn. However, the deficit with non-EU countries in May widened from £769m to £1.6bn.

Much of the leap during May was due to higher imports of aircraft and precious stones, but even excluding erratic items the gap was £500m wider at £382m. Higher sales to North America were not enough to offset falls in exports to Asia and the Opec countries.

The CBI survey suggested there is worse to come. The balance of companies reporting lower rather than higher export orders was minus 50 per cent in June. The balance on total orders slipped to the lowest for five years.

Although many City experts agree the interest rate rises have helped keep sterling too high, Adam Cole, UK economist at HSBC Securities, said: "It is not the Bank's job to get the pound down. Manufacturers have become uncompetitive not just because of the strong pound but also because of their own abysmal productivity record."

Output per hour in manufacturing rose just 6 per cent in the UK between 1982 and 1996, compared with a 20 per cent increase in the US and 17 per cent in France and Germany.

But Kate Barker, the CBI's chief economist, said: "Industry probably did need the cold shower of an over-valued exchange rate in the early 1980s, but it doesn't need one every five years."

Meanwhile, separate figures across the Atlantic showed the US economy expanding even more rapidly than originally recorded in the first quarter of this year. However, evidence is accumulating that it, too, will slow down this quarter.

GDP grew at a seasonally adjusted rate of 5.4 per cent in the January to March quarter, compared to the previous estimate of 4.8 per cent.

Exports fell by only 1.2 per cent instead of 3 per cent as originally thought, despite the Asian crisis.

But the figures also showed that the stockpile of unsold goods continued to mount, with inventories increasing by a record \$105bn. This overhang is one factor pointing to slower growth ahead.

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# An uphill struggle for the Chancellor

THE BRITISH economy has had an unusually good run for the past five years. It has been a long recovery and, at least last year, a vigorous one. But no Chancellor can escape the business cycle, and the downturn is coming. As far as anybody can tell from here, it is not going to be as severe as the last one, but it will still pose a challenge to the Government's broader ambitions for the economy. And these are broad indeed. Gordon Brown wants to raise the UK's level of productivity towards those achieved by its competitors, and he wants to tackle the severe problems of withdrawal from work, income inequality and poverty the Government inherited.

Just in case anybody was in danger of underestimating the size of the task, the OECD's annual report on the UK, published earlier this week, sets out these problems in all their glory, with chapters on both welfare-to-work and competitiveness. Although it concludes that the Government is adopting pretty much the right strategy, it is hard to emerge from reading the document feeling optimistic. Just to run through the extent of the structural problems in the jobs market is sobering.

For instance, Britain has enjoyed one of the best recent performances in reducing unemployment, which has fallen to 6.4 per cent on the internationally comparable measure. Yet another 6.5 per cent of the working age population, 2.3 million people, would like jobs but are not classified as unemployed. Nor has there been any growth to speak of in the employment rate since the business cycle upturn started in 1992. The number of "economically inactive" but not "unemployed" people who want a job has been rising by 5 per cent a year throughout the recovery.

So the structural unemployment rate might have fallen, but it has had no effect on the employment rate. The proportion of the workforce that is actually working is higher in the UK than most of the Continent, but well below its peak in the late 1980s, and below the rates in the US, Japan and most of Scandinavia.

A closer look at the people who are out of work reveals that younger women have been entering the workforce in greater numbers, while older men have been dropping out. The fastest-growing group amongst the 2.3 million "inactives" who want jobs are the

## ECONOMICS



DIANE COYLE

Brown wants to raise productivity and tackle withdrawal from work, income inequality and poverty... don't expect too much too soon

long-term sick and disabled, mostly older, unskilled men. Lone parents form the next category - the UK has more than a million, and fewer of them work than in most other OECD countries. Finally, there are the spouses of the unemployed, trapped by the benefit system.

Side by side with this chronic lack of work problem goes the UK's above-average income inequality, dramatically increased since the late 1970s. The highest-earning tenth of the population now makes eight times the lowest earners, up from a ratio of

about 4.5 times in 1970. Twenty years ago the typical person on low-income was a pensioner. Now poverty is more likely to affect the unemployed, the sick and disabled and lone parents, and a third of British children live in poverty.

Changes in the world of work seem to account for much of the increase in poverty and inequality, especially the changing industrial structure, which has seen traditional manufacturing decline and advanced services grow. This has made for increased returns to educational attainments and skills. People with a degree on average earn more than double those who leave school before A-levels.

The link means tackling the jobs market will help tackle poverty and inequality, and perhaps more effectively than direct welfare reform. The key is therefore, as the OECD puts it, "harnessing the potential of those who are non-active but willing to work" - or raising the employment rate as opposed to reducing the unemployment rate. But getting more people into work means qualifying more of them for available jobs.

The report is therefore sceptical about the New Deal, with its direct jobs subsidies. It places more emphasis on "active" policies that help match workers to jobs by providing information and in-depth advice

from the Employment Service. Schemes that help with travel to job interviews and support with applications, photocopying and letter writing can also be surprisingly effective. More of this sort of help is needed in the most deprived areas.

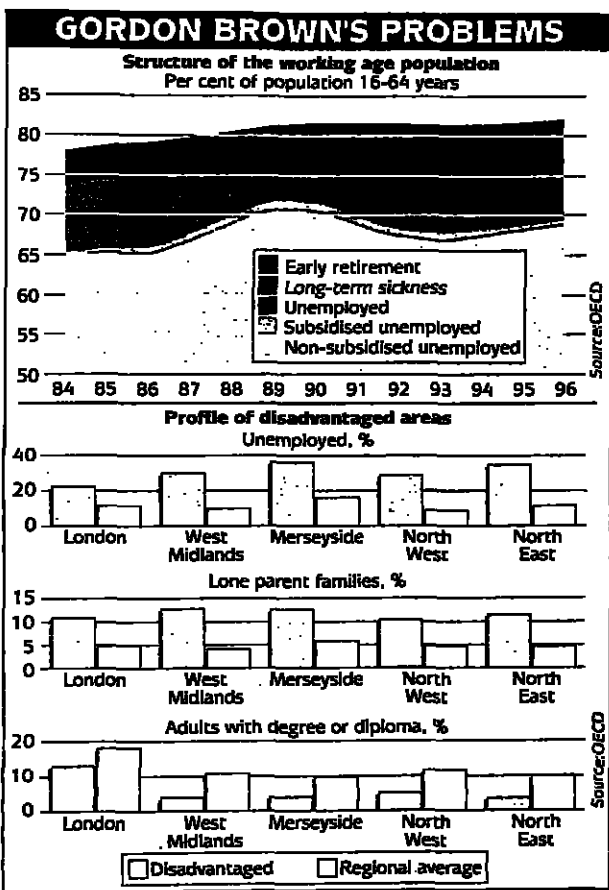
Of course, there are no miracle cures. The other element in improving employability is raising the skill level of the inactive workforce. Unemployment amongst those with university or further education qualifications stands at less than 4 per cent, compared with 12 per cent amongst those who leave school at 16. It was the focus of a seminar this week held by the Smith Institute, the new think tank founded in memory of the late Labour leader John Smith. Participants emphasised the links between education, equality and economic success, especially in the most deprived areas.

However, with many young people leaving school without basic literacy and numeracy skills, tackling the broader economic and social problems through the education system is an uphill task - and one that will not help the older people trapped outside the jobs market. The OECD's authors conclude: "It will take many years before the average qualification achievement in the UK reaches a level similar to that in most OECD countries" - especially when all parts of the UK education system are crying for more cash.

Nevertheless, the new report places more hopes on a combination of skill improvements and "active" labour market policies than on tax and benefit reforms such as the new working families tax credit. The latter approach is only likely to make any inroads into poverty if the Government is prepared to spend a lot more money, because of the inescapable trade-offs in the tax and benefit system. Incentives to work for those on low incomes can only be improved by pushing the disincentives further up the income scale.

Even so, the Government is without doubt adopting the right sorts of policies. They will make a start on raising potential output, get more people who want to work into jobs, increase the incomes of the poorest and reduce inequality. But the unwelcome moral is that it would be a mistake to expect too much too soon, especially with the economy heading straight for the chilly waters of a downturn.

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Watchdog David Edmonds wants firms to make prices easier to compare

## Phone companies face action on tariff details

THE NEW director-general of OfTel, the telecoms watchdog, is threatening to use his official powers if telecoms companies do not come up with a way of publishing their tariffs so they can be easily compared.

David Edmonds, who took over his post at the beginning of April, has written to the chief executives of all the major residential telecoms operators, threatening them with regulatory action if they do not release information on prices.

His move follows the failure of a working party of telecoms operators, set up with OfTel's encouragement, to come up with a template that would allow residential customers to compare their prices easily.

The committee had asked Analysys, the consultancy based in Cambridge, to come up with a format that would rep-

resent their prices properly. However, Analysys complained that it could not do the job because the telecoms operators would not give it sufficient information about their tariff structures.

Mr Edmonds is especially concerned that the myriad of different rates and discounts on offer at the moment only confuse the consumer. He wants the industry to produce a chart that will allow customers to compare charges and decide which service suits them best. However, prices are particularly difficult to compare. British Telecom's "Friends and Family" offer gives users extra discounts on numbers they call regularly. Meanwhile, Cable & Wireless Communications has set a maximum charge of 50p

on weekend national calls. Other cable operators do not charge for calls between their own subscribers in the same area.

As a result, the telecoms operators complain that squeezing their prices into a fixed template would be misleading. But Mr Edmonds has demanded that they come up with a comprehensive chart by the autumn, or else face the prospect of OfTel forcing them to adopt a fixed template.

Mr Edmonds's actions will delight consumer groups, who have long complained that telecoms prices only serve to confuse.

But business users will be disappointed that his initiative does not stretch to business rates. Mr Edmonds argues that companies are more capable of working out for themselves which rates offer best value.

## Right time for fish and chips

HARRY RAMSDEN'S, the fish-and-chip restaurant business, yesterday predicted it will be one of few companies to benefit from an economic slowdown as customers trade down to cheaper restaurants.

John Barnes, chairman of the Yorkshire group, said: "In a recession, people think: 'Maybe that French restaurant's a bit expensive, we'll go to Harry's.' With economic growth slowing, we expect customers to trade down to better value-for-money brands."

The company said it would speed up its growth in the slow-down by switching to smaller outlets. New restaurants would more closely resemble the shed in Guiseley, near Leeds, at which Harry Ramsden first opened in 1928.

But there is increasing con-

cern over the price of fish, which has reached its highest level in seven years because of unusual weather patterns.

Profits at the group in the six months to the end of March rose by 14 per cent over the same period last year to £154,000, while turnover nearly doubled to £4.9m.

Mr Barnes said the company was keen to buy more restaurants to add to its current total of 34 and would soon be opening new outlets in Aberdeen and Ipswich.

Harry Ramsden's recently opened its first drive-through facility at its operation in Gateshead. It has also opened a franchised unit in the United Arab Emirates, its eighth outlet abroad.

## Indonesia, IMF sign fresh deal

INDONESIA AND the IMF yesterday signed a fresh deal aimed at salvaging the stricken economy, but warned that an extra \$4bn (£2.4bn) to \$6bn in loans was needed to repair the damage caused by weeks of social and political upheaval.

Forced back to the drawing board after Indonesia's descent into mass violence last month swept away their April deal, they warned that the economy was now expected to shrink by at least 10 per cent this year, and a \$41.2bn bail-out package already in place was no longer large enough.

While previous agreements concentrated on economic reform, the new deal has a more fundamental focus - fighting the hunger and deprivation suffered by Indonesia's poor and providing a safety net.

## IN BRIEF

### MBOs double

THE UK management buy-out market has had a record six months, says a survey by KPMG Corporate Finance. The survey showed that the value of larger MBOs and management buy-outs (MBIs) was £6.97bn in the first half of 1998, compared with £3.26bn in the first half of 1997.

### IMRO fines firm

IMRO, the City watchdog, yesterday terminated the registration of George Corde, the former head of administration and compliance at Waverley Trust, and fined the company £75,000 for breaching regulatory rules.

### Medicine man

BIOCOMPATIBLES International, the medical products producer, yesterday appointed Crispin Simon as chief executive. Mr Simon was president of Smith & Nephew's endoscopy unit.

### Next's new way

NEXT PLC, the fashion retailer, said yesterday it was closing seven company-owned stores in the US, France and Belgium, but it would continue to expand abroad through franchise operations.

Next said it had decided to close the stores at a cost of £3.4m because they had not performed as expected.

### Pay-TV sale

CANAL PLUS, the French media group, said yesterday it was willing to sell its 24.9 per cent stake in German pay-television group Vox TV to companies owned by Rupert Murdoch, but any deal needed approval by its partner Bertelsmann, the German group.

### Bank merger off

MERRILL LYNCH and Chase Manhattan abandoned merger talks after it became clear that a tie-up would have been difficult to carry out successfully because of differences in the two companies' corporate cultures, the Wall Street Journal reported yesterday.

### Boots package

LORD BLYTH of Rowington, deputy chairman and chief executive of Boots, received a pay and bonuses package of £871,000 last year, up from £858,000 last time, according to the group's latest annual report and accounts.

### Chief resigns

STEPHEN THOMSON resigned as chief executive of Calderburn, the furnishings group, following a "difference of opinion on strategic development". He was replaced by Oliver Chapple, a non-executive director.

## St Ives founder sells up for £24m

ROBERT GAVRON, the man who formed the St Ives printing company in 1964 and retired as chairman in 1993, has finally cut his last remaining ties with the company which made his fortune and is selling most of his shares.

The Guardian Media Group, where Mr Gavron is non-executive chairman, will no doubt regard this development with some concern, since it will give him even more time to meddle in their affairs. Mr Gavron has won an unenviable reputation there as a bit of a busybody.

He has been a non-executive director of St Ives for the last five years. Yesterday he told the board he intended to sell 4.6 million shares of his 6.6 million stake in St Ives. The sale should

## PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



garner around £24m at yesterday's closing price of 519.5p, down 17p on the day. The shares are being placed in the market.

Mr Gavron says he intends to keep the rest of the shares "for the foreseeable future."

LAWRENCE URQUHART, former boss of Burnham Castrol and currently deputy chairman of BAA, has been named as Sir Brian Smith's successor as chairman of the airports group.

Marcus Agius, the ever-green vice-chairman of Lazard Brothers and a non-executive director at BAA, will become deputy chairman. Stepping into his shoes will be Christopher Fay, chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, who joins as a non-executive director.

I THOUGHT Malcolm Williamson was supposed to be "retir-

ing" from Standard Chartered when he was replaced as chief executive by Rana Talwar a fortnight ago.

Now our Malcolm, a sprightly 60, has popped up as chief executive officer of Visa International, the global payments system with 21,000 member financial institutions and a turnover of \$1 trillion. Hardly a part-time retirement job, to be fitted in between golf and tending the roses.

Mr Williamson was chosen by his old mate Peter Ellwood, chairman of the Visa International board of directors, who led the selection committee for the new CEO. Both men spent most of their early careers with Barclays Bank, which they joined over 25 years ago. Mr Williamson was at Barclays until 1985, and Mr Ellwood, now chief executive at Lloyds Bank, left Barclays four years later.

ALLAN LEIGHTON, chief executive at Asda, was limping slightly yesterday, having picked up a slight hamstring strain in the latest crunch Asda five-a-side football match on Monday night.

Mr Leighton's "Asda House" team from head office trounced the Gravesend store 28-8 in a gruelling 70-minute fixture in Leeds. The Tony Adams-style Mr Leighton, normally known for his no-nonsense tackling, netted five goals. That was nothing next to "inspirational midfielder" Archie Norman, the chairman, who demonstrated his silky skills with a startling 10 goals.

A jubilant Mr Leighton observed: "They came up to give us a good kicking but we gave them one instead." Perhaps Glenn Hoddle should be informed. STILL ON Asda, the super-

market chain has set up a "rent-a-hunk" scheme for World Cup widows, titled "World Cup Hunks".

It's aimed at female customers who have been deserted by their sofa-bound husbands. Customers can ring up and be partnered with a muscle-bound Adonis for the weekly grocery run.

Asda has hired rugby players, firemen and other well-built blokes uninterested in footie to dress down in "ripped T-shirts and skimpy vests," it says here.

A company spokesman says: "It's proved quite popular. We haven't had any complaints from irate hunkies yet."

STAND BY for the inauguration ceremony for the European Central Bank on 30 June in Frankfurt. There will be a stellar audience for the bash, including Willem F Duisenberg, President of the new bank.

Lucky attendees will hear addresses by Tony Blair in his role as President of the European Council, plus Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission and Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of Germany, to name but a few.

They will also thrill to the entertainment being laid on: The Royal Dutch Male Voice Choir, plus *Riverdance* performed by an Irish Dance Ensemble.

Wake me up when it's over: BIOCOMPATIBLES International has appointed Crispin Simon as chief executive officer, to fill the hole left by Alistair Taylor, who left in February. Mr Simon has held senior posts at Smith & Nephew, Rexham and McKinsey & Company.

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## SPORT

# Wimbledon: Haas exploits inside knowledge of game's most charismatic player as Britain's enigma engineers upset

## Agassi succumbs to the new Becker




BY JOHN ROBERTS

HE MIGHT not be a natural successor to Boris Becker (who is?) or Michael Stich, but the 20-year-old Tommy Haas gave Germany reason for optimism yesterday by completing a second victory against Andre Agassi, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6, 6-4, in a match suspended overnight. If not "Boom Boom", then perhaps "Kicking Haas."

The 22-year-old Agassi, eliminated in the first round of the French Open by another of the rising generation, the 18-year-old Marat Safin, felt aggrieved when bad light stopped play on Wednesday night after a suspect baseline call towards the climax of the third set tie-break, which Haas won, 7-4.

Agassi informed the umpire, John Frame, how he felt about his decision not to over-ride, and the British official was booted off the court. Still, the popular 1992 champion had survived to fight another day. When the match resumed on the Centre Court, following rain delays

## YESTERDAY AT WIMBLEDON

-  Arazzi defeats French Open champion and fifth seed Moya in four sets
-  Wilkinson revives memories of past glory by beating Rosset in straight sets
-  Defending champion Hingis reaches third round with straight-sets win

and a win for the Morocco's Hicham Arazzi against Carlos Moya, the French Open champion, Haas remained unruffled, either by Agassi or those in the crowd willing the Las Vegas to win.

The desire for a face as familiar as Agassi's to progress to the later stages of the tournament was understandable. Between the showers, the men's singles has already been drained of five of the top eight seeds, including Britain's Greg Rusedski

(the No 4 seed), who retired hurt. The others are Marcelo Rios (No 2), Moya (No 5) Yevgeny Kafelnikov (No 7) and Cedric Pioline (No 8).

Chris Wilkinson's splendid effort in defeating the temperamental Swiss Marc Rosset yesterday, thereby joining Tim Henman in the British cause, was a rousing bonus, but the impression is that the women's singles is going to be the more interesting event.

Although Pete Sampras (No 1),

Petr Korda (No 3) and Pat Rafter (No 6) are due to continue campaigning today, the men's tournament will rely a good deal on the continued success of bright prospects such as Haas and Arazzi.

Thirty-five minutes of Agassi yesterday was less than the spectators had hoped for, though few would disagree that the personable Haas thoroughly deserved a victory that will make a mark in Germany.

Agassi had won their only previous match, earlier this year on a concrete court in the finals of an ATP Tour event in Scottsdale, Arizona, 6-2, 6-1. While the even bounce of the ball on the American courts suit Agassi's style best, he would have expected to have made more of a No 13 seeding granted by the All England Club.

A first-round win against the Spaniard Alejandro Calatrava in straight sets may have eased Agassi into the tournament, but he required much more to overcome a player of Haas's quality, and was unable to build on his first-set lead.

Haas, making only his second appearance at Wimbledon, made himself at home on the Centre Court after earning the opportunity to play in the world's most famous tennis arena by defeating Ramon Delgado, of Paraguay, in the opening round.

Facing Agassi is a special moment for any player, and the young German had been groomed in Florida by the Las Vegas's former mentor, Nick Bollettieri. "I used to see Andre practise there [at the tennis academy] and sit on the sidelines and watch him play, and try to see how he does things," Haas said. "I used to look up to him when I was young, and play with him once in a while, which was very nice."

Haas put that experience, plus what he learned while losing to Agassi in Arizona, to good use. "Once you start playing someone more often, you notice things they don't like and use that to your advantage," he said. "This is a very special win for me. I can say I beat the former No 1 who won a couple of Grand Slams."

The strangest aspect of Haas's reaction yesterday concerned his comments about Wimbledon. "I never really liked the tournament so much, because it's hectic," he said. "But once you go out there you change your mind totally."

"I didn't expect the stadium to be so special, but it is. You think about how all the great people have won and held the trophy. I can see why people say it is such a great tournament."

While it would be a mistake to overestimate Arazzi's 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 win against Moya, chiefly because the Spaniard was not expecting great deeds from himself after winning the French title a couple of weeks ago, the crowd loved the Moroccan's fluent style.

It reminded them, perhaps, of another artistic left-hander of the courts, the Frenchman Henri Leconte. Arazzi, who has lived in France since he was a child, brings similar nonchalance to the game, often smiling to himself at how easy it is for him to make even the most

difficult shots. Like Leconte, Arazzi does not always string enough points together to win matches, but on afternoons such as yesterday his skills are a delight to watch.

It was encouraging, perhaps, that Arazzi was not as impressed with his performance as the spectators who rose to him as he left the court. "It was not such a good match for me," he said. "In the beginning, Moya was playing better than me, but after the rain he started to make a lot of mistakes."

Complacency might prove to be the undoing of Martins Hingis. The youngest Wimbledon champion of the century was far from dominant in advancing to the third round yesterday, looking disoriented at times, as if wondering how her Russian opponent, Elena Makarov, had the effrontery to make a serious challenge. Although winning the rain-interrupted match, 7-6, 6-4, after an hour and 23 minutes, Hingis agreed that she had made the match difficult for herself by underestimating her opponent. "I was too loose," she said.



Chris Wilkinson concentrates and bends for a low forehand volley as he does his India rubber man act to rub out Marc Rosset in straight sets in another of his Wimbledon upsets yesterday

Robert Hallam

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## Wilkinson's sword slays the baby-eating monster

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

THERE WERE babies around Court No 6 yesterday and they were screaming. It was just like the McEnroe days.

For a match between a new all-American boy and a seasoned Zimbabwean there was unusual interest. But then the winner of this contest would go on to a far grander coliseum and an encounter in the third round with the prince of this parish, Tim Henman.

This was blond v Black, streaked blond at that in the hair of Jan-Michael Gambill of the United States. He is 21, 6ft 2in and possessed of the look

and physique of someone who should be crashing into California surf. He is also named after the actor Jan-Michael Vincent, which just shows that his mother has tastes for other than Jean-Luc Godard's work.

In the other corner was the wiry Byron Black, fighting out of Harare, and at 30 next year, a veritable Methuselah of the circuit.

The stats suggested that Blackie should win. He has been the 22nd-best player in the world, even if he is now down at 34. The boy from Spokane, Washington, is at 60 in the charts and rising. He is meant to be America's great new hope, which, in expectancy terms, is worth an anvil in each sock.

Both are predominantly baseliners and both predominantly two-handed on either wing. This meant that during the long rallies yesterday it seemed as if our players had been the victim of a prankster with a pot of glue in the locker room.

The boys have already endured two close matches this year, which means Black has got used to playing the fair-ground duck. Gambill has a big first serve, a big second serve and, almost inevitably, a big double-fault count.

Black's cause may have been aided by his opponent's fatigue. Gambill had needed three days, five sets and a great deal of nervous energy to overcome Sjeng Schalken in the

first round and, in the end, that was too much. He departed 7-5, 6-4, 7-5.

There were those hoping that tiredness would have a similar effect on events at Court No 1. This was where Chris Wilkinson, of Southampton and Blighty, was taking on the gargantuan Swiss, Marc Rosset.

Rosset had finished his first-round match only at 8.00pm the previous night with a five-setter to put out last year's runner-up, Cedric Pioline, 13-11 in the fifth.

While our Chris was dozing among handmaidens waiting away with peacock feathers, it might have been an idea if the All England committee had put Rosset to even further work. An evening shift behind the bar at the Pitcher & Piano in Wimbledon village might have done the trick, followed by a morning paper round.

It might also have been an idea to return to the pre-1975 days and make the players stand at the change-overs. But Rosset really did need his sit-

downs as he brought into this game a nagging back injury.

While Rusedski's blunderbuss and the rapier Henman have been prominent at recent Wimbledon, there have also been good moments for the Wilkinson sword. A ranking of 114 may be the highest he has ever achieved, but Wilkinson has always operated in flurries and they tend to come in SW19. He has reached the third round in 1993, 1994 and 1995.

"It's nice for me [at Wimbledon] because I can stay at home and I know what to expect now," he said after his first victory. "It's very easy for me to get up for it."

Rosset was the only Swiss gold medalist at the Barcelona Olympics and has finished in the world top 35 for each of the last six years. The credentials looked overpoweringly in his favour as did the differences between the two combatants on court. Marc Rosset would look like a Smurf if it wasn't for the fact he is 6ft 7in tall. He may be the only tennis player

in history who has never been lobbed.

Wilkinson was hardly a terrifying vision at his side. He had co-ordinating white legs to go with his outfit, limbs about as chunky as cotton thread.

The match opened like a contest between a fly and a swatter, and while Wilkinson looked as if he might be able to buzz around and survive for a while, it seemed he could never win. Rosset swaggered like a man who had just eaten a couple of babies for a snack before he came out and almost put one smash through the canvas.

The lumbering, though, soon became less significant than Rosset's lumber. The giant became as manoeuvrable as the beanstalk and Wilkinson started winning games. And then he started winning sets.

He won the first set 6-4, the second by the same margin, and, when a crosscourt forehand flashed past Rosset in the third-set tie-break, the match itself. The swatter had been snapped.





No hiding place for Karen Cross in defeat to Tamarine Tanasugarn Robert Hallam

# Smith waits on doctor as British girls go out

BY GUY HODGSON

BRITAIN'S INVOLVEMENT in the women's singles is dependent on the advice of a doctor after the elimination of Karen Cross and Louise Latimer yesterday. The hope is the diagnosis proves more accurate for Sam Smith than it did for Greg Rusedski.

Smith, the 26-year-old British No 1, is due to meet the former champion and eighth seed Conchita Martinez in the third round today although she finished on crutches after beating Argentina's Mariana Diaz Oliva on Wednesday night.

During the game she heard a loud crack and felt a shooting pain through her left foot. An X-ray revealed nothing although she was still limping in the competitors' room yesterday. "I don't know if I'll be fit," she said. "I'll have to see in the

morning." At least there is some hope, but for Cross and Latimer their Wimbledon came to a halt yesterday even if the process was elongated by the on-off nature of the play. The more disappointed of the pair will be Cross, who had suggested she might fight back against Thailand's world No 42 Tamarine Tanasugarn.

Cross, who had match point against Iva Majoli in the third round last year, had a 4-2 lead in the second set, but the promising position was lost quickly when she took to the court for the third time, going down 6-2, 7-5.

It was not hard to see why Cross has found it hard to reach the elite 100. She has talent, but the 24-year-old from Exeter does not have height, an essential element in the modern women's game. At 5ft 4in she is dwarfed by the

leviathans at the top who are at least three inches taller.

Not that Tanasugarn exactly towered over Cross, it was only when the track suits came off that you began to fear for the home prospects. The Thai girl had shoulders that could have propped a rugby scrum. It was not hard to see who would have the weight and power advantage.

The first point confirmed that as Tanasugarn's thumping drive down the line crashed into Cross's flimsy backhand. "I think I know what's going to happen here," someone said in the crowd, and when the score was 3-0 within minutes you feared for her. "I don't know why, but I started cold," Cross said. "It was the opposite in my first-round match. There's no pattern."

At that stage the strongest element in her game was the

withering stare she had given a lineswoman, but she had managed to break back to trail 3-2 when rain stopped her.

The same happened when she took to the court again. Cross had risked taking lunch and began sloggingly, Tanasugarn took the first set and then overcame her opponent's resurgence after another break. "There was not much between us," Cross said. "The difference is that I can only play at that level in patches, she sustained it for the whole match. I have to build my level of consistency."

Latimer was not looking to build anything, just keep the damage to the bare minimum when she went 5-0 down to the world No 26, Sabine Appelmans, who halted one of Steffi Graf's comeback earlier this year. She had begun brightly, going 40-15 up in the first game,

but the rain came as blessed relief, not an irksome irritation.

"I wasn't nervous," the 30-year-old from Norwich said. "It was just that I hadn't met someone who hits the ball so clean and so deep. I felt quite good when I got on court, but when we came off my coach told me to take more risks. The way I was playing I wasn't going to get anywhere."

Latimer, who was in her first senior Wimbledon, managed to avoid a white wash in the first set and then came back strongly to Appelmans after a second interruption, breaking the Belgian once and threatening her opponent's serve again before she succumbed 6-1, 6-4.

"She's 225 places above me so there wasn't any pressure," Latimer said. "Now I know what it takes to get near the top. It's been a good learning experience for me."

## Court circular

DEEDS OF THE SEEDS	
Men's singles	Women's singles
Holder: Pete Sampras (United States)	Holder: Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
1 SAMPRAS (USA) vs 16 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	1 HINGIS (SWE) vs 16 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
2 RIOS (ESP) vs 17 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	2 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 17 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
3 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 18 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	3 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 18 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
4 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 19 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	4 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 19 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
5 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 20 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	5 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 20 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
6 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 21 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	6 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 21 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
7 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 22 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	7 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 22 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
8 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 23 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	8 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 23 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
9 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 24 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	9 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 24 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
10 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 25 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	10 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 25 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
11 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 26 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	11 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 26 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
12 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 27 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	12 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 27 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
13 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 28 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	13 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 28 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
14 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 29 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	14 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 29 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
15 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 30 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	15 KURKIJA (FIN) vs 30 KURKIJA (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2

## Ivanisevic is on the ball

THE CROATIAN Goran Ivanisevic is thrilled his tennis is peaking at the same time as his footballing compatriots have hit form in the World Cup.

"I practiced last year with the team in Split and I love football," said the lanky big server who contemplated football as a career before opting for tennis.

He also loved taking a gentle dig at the English football team - "They are really playing bad" - at his post-match press conference.

The fresh-faced Swiss girl Patty Schnyder, the 13th seed, sat proudly in the post-match press conference room ready to bare her soul to reporters.

But it was a lonely wait, prompting the Wimbledon announcer to bark out: "There is nobody in the interview room. Where are the Swiss Press?"

Within minutes, Schnyder was all smiles. The press posse duly arrived and she shook hands with each reporter to welcome them.

Pat Cash and the Wild Colonial Boys are ready to party at Wimbledon. The Australian, who broke with protocol and clambered excitedly into the stands to hug his family after his memorable 1987 Wimbledon win, is taking to a local stage for a two-night rock gig with his band.

Cash, who now works as a BBC television commentator, will be joined in an all-star line-up by fellow tennis stars Jim Courier and John McEnroe.

Wimbledon even lays on a special seamstress to help out any lady players whose outfits may come unstuck at the last - and potentially most embarrassing - moment before they stride on court.

But the seamstress left her security pass behind on arrival at the tightly guarded ground. When she came back to claim her sewing machine, she found it had been handed over to police as a potential security risk.

### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES	
Holder: Pete Sampras (USA)	Second round
1 Sampras (USA) vs 16 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	2 Rios (ESP) vs 17 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
3 Kurkija (FIN) vs 18 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	4 Kurkija (FIN) vs 19 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
5 Kurkija (FIN) vs 20 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	6 Kurkija (FIN) vs 21 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
7 Kurkija (FIN) vs 22 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	8 Kurkija (FIN) vs 23 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
9 Kurkija (FIN) vs 24 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	10 Kurkija (FIN) vs 25 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
11 Kurkija (FIN) vs 26 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	12 Kurkija (FIN) vs 27 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
13 Kurkija (FIN) vs 28 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	14 Kurkija (FIN) vs 29 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
15 Kurkija (FIN) vs 30 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	
WOMEN'S SINGLES	
Holder: Martina Hingis (SWE)	Second round
1 Hingis (SWE) vs 16 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	2 Kurkija (FIN) vs 17 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
3 Kurkija (FIN) vs 18 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	4 Kurkija (FIN) vs 19 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
5 Kurkija (FIN) vs 20 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	6 Kurkija (FIN) vs 21 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
7 Kurkija (FIN) vs 22 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	8 Kurkija (FIN) vs 23 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
9 Kurkija (FIN) vs 24 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	10 Kurkija (FIN) vs 25 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
11 Kurkija (FIN) vs 26 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	12 Kurkija (FIN) vs 27 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
13 Kurkija (FIN) vs 28 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	14 Kurkija (FIN) vs 29 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
15 Kurkija (FIN) vs 30 Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	
MEN'S DOUBLES	
Holder: T Woodbridge and M Woodgate (AUS)	First round
1 Woodbridge/Woodgate (AUS) vs 16 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	2 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 17 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
3 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 18 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	4 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 19 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
5 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 20 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	6 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 21 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
7 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 22 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	8 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 23 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
9 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 24 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	10 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 25 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
11 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 26 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	12 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 27 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
13 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 28 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	14 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 29 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
15 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 30 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	
WOMEN'S DOUBLES	
Holder: G Fernandez (USA) and N Zvereva (BLR)	First round
1 Fernandez/Zvereva (USA/BLR) vs 16 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	2 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 17 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
3 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 18 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	4 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 19 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
5 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 20 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	6 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 21 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
7 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 22 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	8 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 23 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
9 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 24 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	10 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 25 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
11 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 26 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	12 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 27 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
13 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 28 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	14 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 29 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
15 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) vs 30 Kurkija/Kurkija (FIN) - 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	

### YESTERDAY'S STATS

**8,500** The number of pounds one punter has bet on Sampras and Hingis to win the singles.  
**5,100** The amount in pounds collected for charity from Wednesday's resold tickets.

### LATEST ODDS

Men's singles: Ev Sampras 100-30, 1-10 Kurkija 12-1, Ivanisevic 12-1, Rios 12-1, Brackley 12-1, Korda 12-1, Philippoussis 12-1, Hingis 12-1, Graf 12-1, Novotna 12-1.

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# England's damage control plan

RUGBY UNION  
By CHRIS HEWETT  
in Auckland

NOT FOR the first time in his colourful career, John Hart hit the nail square on the head. "Any international side with its back to the wall tends to be pretty desperate," pronounced the All Blacks coach and no one who has witnessed the full horror of England's southern hemisphere humiliation these past three weeks will argue. The tourists have indeed been desperate. Desperately bad.

Very nearly as bad as the foul-smelling atmosphere surrounding tomorrow's second and final Test at Eden Park. "I sincerely hope there will be no spill-over from last week," said Hart, referring to the many and varied examples of underhand skulduggery that blighted the opening confrontation in Dunedin. The response of John Mitchell, Hart's countryman and opposite number, was rather darker in hue. "There is a time and place for dealing with the opposition but you have to be careful," he said, not terribly diplomatically.

Amid further allegations, counter-allegations and ill-tempered spats over what has become known as the Ian Jones Affair, England continued to dodge, bob and weave over the make-up of their team. This much is certain: Dave Sims will make a first international start in the second row for the suspended Danny Greylock while Tom Beir and Jos Baxendell, the Sale three-quarters, will take

over from the out-of-form Tim Stimpson and Jonny Wilkinson. It is also likely that Tony Diprose's one-man show against the Maori in midweek will give him the nod over Steve Ojomoh at No 8, although the wet weather may force a change of plan. Baxendell's is by far the most intriguing promotion. According to the battle plan pieced together by Mitchell, Brian Ashton and the other trackside strategists, he will alternate between inside centre and outside-half, depending on field position and who has the ball. England see him as their most potent attacking weapon and believe he can pose the rock-solid All Blacks defence the odd headache.

"I don't kick the ball a great deal," admitted Baxendell yesterday. "To my way of thinking, positive rugby is all about lying flat rather than deep and looking to beat opponents in one-on-one situations. Unless you do that, you inevitably find yourself playing behind the advantage line. When you're up against a side as strong in the tackle as these All Blacks, that is no place to be. You have to make things happen."

Baxendell certainly caused a happening or two against the Maori in Rotorua on Tuesday, especially when he moved inside to fill the stand-off position vacated by Alex King. He made the opposition think twice with his calculated angles, oblique passes and occasional extravaganzas with ball in hand. Given that the All Blacks' own Buncle-midfield has been further disrupted by Walter Little's foot injury - Caleb Ralph, a 21-year-old, was

known from Auckland, makes his Test debut at centre - England have at least gambled in the right sort of area.

Without tempting providence, it is true to say that this is one of the least experienced New Zealand sides to enter the Test arena since the so-called "Baby Blacks" did battle with the French in Christchurch 18 years ago. They have a new all-time outstanding captain in Taine Randle, a fresh and not entirely convincing scrum-half in Junior Tomu'u and a pair of centres in Ralph and Mark Mayrhofer who might have difficulty recognising each other at the bar.

What team could overcome the almost simultaneous departures of Little, Frank Bunce, Justin Marshall, Sean Fitzpatrick, Michael Jones and Zinzan Brooke? Sadly for England, they will discover the answer tomorrow. The All Blacks have sufficient miles on the clock up front to know their way around the forward exchanges and they possess four players of indisputable world class outside in Andrew Mehrtens, Jonah Lomu, Jeff Wilson and Christian Cullen. They are too clever, too fast and too damned good for these particular tourists.

It is possible that England will buck the general trend of New Zealand touring by making a better last of the second Test than the first. To do so, they will need Garath Archer to rise above his ankle problems and stoke the fires of confrontation as he did last weekend.

In the end, though, we are talking damage limitation. It is



Jos Baxendell in training yesterday for the second and final Test

Alasport

a mark of the gap between the sides that while England would celebrate a 20-point defeat, the All Blacks would leave by the back door and go into hiding.

Wales will wait until the morning of the match before they decide whether to risk playing their injured captain, Rob Howley, against South Africa in Pretoria tomorrow.

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# Frentzen ire turns heat on Schumacher

MOTOR RACING  
By DERICK ALLSOP  
in Magny-Cours

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER seemed to have got it wrong when he arrived in the rain here wearing shorts. It became still more uncomfortable for the German as he faced further interrogation about his behaviour on the track and was urged by his countryman Heinz-Harald Frentzen to resign as an official spokesman for the Grand Prix Drivers' Association.

As ever, Schumacher defended himself, maintaining he had not deliberately driven Frentzen off the circuit in Canada three weeks ago, and argued that, in common with all leading drivers, he was an easy target for critics.

For good measure, he suggested he and Ferrari might be capable of sustaining their championship challenge to McLaren-Mercedes, starting with Sunday's French Grand Prix here.

Frentzen, who in tandem with his Williams team-mate Jacques Villeneuve, condemned Schumacher's driving in Montreal and contends his compatriot is not fit to sit alongside Damon Hill and David Coulthard as ambassadors of the drivers' body.

"A driver like Michael, the way he drives, he can't be our spokesman," Frentzen said.

"He is always going on about safety and then continues to drive the way he does. At our next meeting I will call for him to step down."

Schumacher is sticking to his claim that he did not see Frentzen as he came out of the pits in Montreal. "Now I have seen the incident on television I know it shows I was wrong," he said. "But when you are in my position it is normal to have critics. I think the truth is somewhere in the middle but I don't care what people say."

Schumacher had a difference of opinion with Hill over another incident in Canada and could not resist a further dig. "I've not had the chance to speak to him. If he runs over me I'll hit it's not so easy to find him."

Schumacher, second in the championship behind Mika Hakkinen after his victory in Montreal, added: "We have closed the gap and I expect us to do so for the rest of the season. We could be there. The next two grands prix will tell us."

## SPORTING DIGEST

**ATHLETICS**  
Colin Jackson, the 110 metres hurdles world record holder, has confirmed he will take part in the British Grand Prix at Don Valley stadium, Sheffield on 2 August.

**BASEBALL**  
NATIONAL LEAGUE, Colorado 8 Houston 6.

**INTERNATIONAL**  
FLORIDA, Denver 7 Chicago Cubs 6 (11 innings). GAMES 2 Tampa Bay 3 Toronto 7 Montreal 6 Cleveland 14 St Louis 2 Philadelphia 10 Detroit 10 New York Yankees 10 Arizona 6 NY Mets 6 Baltimore 3 Chicago White Sox 6 Cincinnati 2 Pittsburgh 10 Houston Astros 3 Milwaukee 3 San Diego 1 Los Angeles 6 Anaheim 5 (7 innings).

**BASKETBALL**  
Michael Olowokandi, born in Nigeria but brought up in London, and Andrew Betts, the England international, have been selected in the National Basketball Association draft. Olowokandi was the first player taken in the draft by the Los Angeles Clippers following a successful career at Pacific University, while Betts, the former Leicester Riders player and capped four times by England, was selected by Charlotte Hornets.

**ICE HOCKEY**  
The newly named Newcastle Riverkings have appointed Alex Dampier as their new coach.

**MOTORCYCLING**  
DUTCH 500cc GRAND PRIX (Amstel, Assen, 26 June): 1. Max Biaggi (Honda 200.012); 2. M. Biaggi (Honda 200.012); 3. R. W. Smith (Honda 200.012); 4. J. J. Heuland (Honda 200.012); 5. C. Checa (Honda 200.012); 6. J. J. Heuland (Honda 200.012); 7. J. J. Heuland (Honda 200.012); 8. J. J. Heuland (Honda 200.012); 9. J. J. Heuland (Honda 200.012); 10. J. J. Heuland (Honda 200.012).

**BOWLS**  
Andrew Fleming is to make his Welsh debut in the Home International series, which starts at Ayr on Monday. The 26-year-old is the only new player in a Welsh side which finished runners-up to Scotland last year.

**CYCLING**  
TOUR OF SWITZERLAND 10th and final stage (190km, Andermatt to Basel): 1. E. Ziegler (Swiss 2:15.12); 2. J. J. Heuland (Swiss 2:15.12); 3. J. J. Heuland (Swiss 2:15.12); 4. J. J. Heuland (Swiss 2:15.12); 5. J. J. Heuland (Swiss 2:15.12); 6. J. J. Heuland (Swiss 2:15.12); 7. J. J. Heuland (Swiss 2:15.12); 8. J. J. Heuland (Swiss 2:15.12); 9. J. J. Heuland (Swiss 2:15.12); 10. J. J. Heuland (Swiss 2:15.12).

**RUGBY LEAGUE**  
Shaun Edwards, shown the door by Bradford, has re-signed with the London Broncos and may play at Halifax tomorrow. Edwards has committed himself to the Broncos for the rest of this season and two more.

David Howes, who resigned as chief executive at St Helens 10 days ago, has been appointed managing director of the newly formed Leeds Rugby Ltd. Leeds' chief executive, Gary Hetherington, will continue to manage both rugby operations, but Howes - once No 2 at the Rugby League - brings vast experience to the commercial front.

Rodney Howe, the test forward who played for Wales in 1993-94, has been selected for the Wales squad for this season to be exposed as testing positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

Therapist Kevin Sherrett, has been suspended for two matches after being sent off for punching at Leeds last week.

**RUGBY UNION**  
England will face Tonga, Kenya and the Bahamas in their group when the Commonwealth Games stages sevens for the first time in Malaysia in September. Wales confront New Zealand, Swaziland and Papua New Guinea. Scotland did not enter. The other three pools drawn in Malaysia are Fiji, Australia, Sri Lanka and the Gambia; South Africa, Cook Islands, Trinidad & Tobago and Malaysia; Western Samoa, Canada, Zimbabwe and Ceyman Islands.

**FOOTBALL**  
Notts County, the Third Division champions, have agreed to cancel the contract of their midfielder Phil Robinson - so that he can pursue a career in physiotherapy. Robinson, who completed a three-year physiotherapy degree course with playing for County, is believed to be joining Stoke City as player-physio. Transfers: Neil Macfarlane (Leeds) to Cardiff City; Sunderland (£100,000); Manchester City (£100,000); Blackpool to Cardiff City (free).

**GOLF**  
Sam Torrance had his best round on the European Tour for nearly two years yesterday, while Colin Montgomerie suffered his worst for nine months. Torrance, three months away from his 45th birthday, completed the first round of the Peugeot French Open at Le Golf National, near Paris, with an eight-under-par 64, one outside the course record. He leads by two from the Argentine Eduardo Romero and the Spaniard Pedro Alcantara and by 10 from his fellow Scot Montgomerie, whose 74 leaves him in jeopardy of missing his first halfway cut in Europe since the 1996 Open championship at Lytham.

**TODAY'S FIXTURES**  
FOOTBALL: All England Championships (Wimbledon).

**OTHER SPORTS**  
TENNIS: All England Championships (Wimbledon).

## NEWCASTLE

**HYPERION**  
6.15 Desert Fighter 6.50 Young Bigwig 7.20 HIGH SPIRITS (map) 7.50 Milefance 8.20 Clearanna 8.50 Exit To Somewhere  
GOING: Good (Good to Firm in place). STALLS: 1m 41 - inside, rest - outside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low may be best in 6.50 race.  
Left-hand, out course, tough, galloping track.  
Course in A1. On from, ADMIRALTY Club 220; Tattersall 25; Silver Ring 24 (22 less in each enclosure for CAPs and registered trainers). CAR PARK: Free.  
LEADING TRAINERS: M. Johnston 25 wins from 149 races (success rate 16.8%), J. Berry 21 (14.1%), Mrs J. Ramsden 15 (10.8%), J. Dwyer 10 (8.0%).  
LEADING JOCKEYS: M. Johnston 25 wins from 149 races (success rate 16.8%), J. Berry 21 (14.1%), Mrs J. Ramsden 15 (10.8%), J. Dwyer 10 (8.0%).  
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Indication 8.50.  
LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLERS: Archer 8.20 and 8.50 miles.

**6.15 BOLLINGER CHAMPAGNE HANDICAP (AMATEURS) (E) £4,500 1m 2f**  
1-4020 DESERT FIGHTER (10) (C) 80 Mr J. Dwyer 7  
2-0004 JYLIN (10) (C) 70 Mr J. Dwyer 7  
3-0002 WESTERN STAR (10) (C) 70 Mr J. Dwyer 7  
4-0001 OUT ON A PROMISE (10) (C) 70 Mr J. Dwyer 7  
5-0001 WANDERER (10) (C) 70 Mr J. Dwyer 7  
6-0001 FORMIDABLE PLAME (10) (C) 70 Mr J. Dwyer 7  
7-0001 PITHALMIA (10) (C) 70 Mr J. Dwyer 7  
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28/WORLD CUP

# Time to exploit the mobility of Beckham

ENGLAND ARE backed up against a wall after the Romania defeat but that is when you tend to see the best of us and I am only expecting a positive reaction from tonight's game with Colombia in Lens and a result to take us through into the second round.

In Mexico in 1986, we faced a similar situation going into our last group game - after a defeat and a draw to Portugal and Morocco respectively, spirits were low but a draw in the final group fixture against Poland would have proved sufficient to send us through. As things turned out Gary Lineker scored a hat-trick inside 34 minutes and qualification was never in doubt.

I was worried about the threat from the Romanians before Monday's game and, unfortunately,



RAY WILKINS

those fears were borne out. If you allow players like the midfielder George Hagi a split second they will punish you and, in Dan Petrescu, they possess one of the best finishers in the Premiership despite the fact that he is a defender.

Petrescu is ice cool; he just does not miss the target.

It is vitally important when you are playing a side who likes to keep the ball that you don't allow them to get in behind you. Colombia will be more to our liking because, although they also try to keep possession, they like to pass it around in front of you and that gives you time to get the covering players back.

Even though a draw will be enough to take England into the knock-out phase, I think we will be going all out to win the game. It is just not in the English psyche to play for a draw.

Colombia have some good quality individuals but as a collective unit they have been disappointing so far. Their game with Tunisia was abysmal, at least from a coach's

point of view, because the defending was so poor. It was a great contest for the neutral because it could have ended up 6-5, and that was just at half-time!

Carlos Valderrama is a world-class talent but, at 36, he may be just too old. He can play people in but he no longer bothers to defend. In fact, for defensive midfield duties, they just seem to leave Harold Lozano on his own and tell him to get on with it.

They have two monsters at the back, Jorge Bermudez and Ever Palacios who ought to be good at getting the ball away, but it doesn't matter whether you are left in or right in, if you go to sleep at the back and are caught ball-watching you will get punished. With England's ability on set-pieces we can definitely take advantage.

The showing of the South American sides so far in this tournament has been good, with Brazil and Argentina justifying their reputations among the favourites to win the World Cup and Chile and Paraguay also emerging into the second phase. However, I wouldn't put Colombia in the same class as those sides.

I would have been more worried had Faustino Asprilla not thrown his tantrum and been expelled from the squad. I rate him enormously as a player and he seems to be one of those rarities - a striker who is happy playing up front on his own. Because of his experiences with Newcastle, he would have known the players he was up against tonight and would possibly have been fired up to put in a really good performance. The England de-

fenders will be more comfortable knowing he is not going to be around.

For all Asprilla's attributes he seems to have a strange mentality and last week's bust-up with the coach was not the first time there has been an upset involving him. When he apologised and pleaded to be allowed back into the camp that made it difficult for the coach, but you can't have a situation where one individual is disrupting the atmosphere no matter how important that player is.

I am certain Michael Owen will start the game because when he came on the other night his hunger and readiness for the challenge was obvious. He has genuine pace and that will frighten the Colombians yet I do feel for Teddy Sheringham and I do feel for Darren Anderton because

it has been hard for them with the public clamour to include both Owen and David Beckham.

If we can deliver more quality crosses into the box then either Alan Shearer can get on the end of things or Michael can seize on the knock-downs. That was another thing that really impressed me about the Romanians, they were very good at preventing the ball from arriving into the box and, therefore, much of the supply to Shearer was neutralised.

I don't think we should risk anything if there is any chance that his injured ankle will go again and possibly put him out of the rest of the tournament. In any case, it will be no bad thing to involve Beckham from the start, he lends credibility to the midfield and gives us more mobility.

## Brown wants England to be wide boys

CRAIG BROWN, the Scotland coach, is backing England to beat Colombia tonight and claim the second-round place which eluded his own team - provided they exploit their aerial power and the width of the pitch.

On returning from the United States last month, after Scotland drew 2-2 with Colombia in a friendly, Brown was convinced England would be too strong for the South Americans. The evidence provided by Group G, in which both teams have beaten Tunisia but lost to Romania, has done nothing to change his mind.

"I don't think Colombia are the force they were even four years ago," said Brown, who will be in Marseilles for tomorrow's game between Italy and Norway as a radio summariser. "They have some good individuals but I don't expect them to cause England too many problems. We were very disappointed not to have beaten them."

"They play a very distinctive system which is basically 1-3-2-2-2 with no width to speak of. If England pick (Steve) McManaman against them they could well steamroller them. We went out determined to use the flanks and did it very successfully."

"Width and heading power are the keys for England. Colombia aren't the biggest of

Width and power in the air are the keys to crushing Colombia, says the Scotland coach. By Phil Shaw

teams - there's only really (Freddie) Rincón. (Jorge) Bermudez and (Harold) Lozano who you would call tall. So they could struggle at set pieces against Alan Shearer and Tony Adams."

"A lot of their play is very much off the cuff. It's hard to see a real structure there, or much evidence that things have been worked on. For instance, I expected their coach (Hernán) Dario Gomez to change things around in the second half in New York to stop us getting by them on the wings, but he didn't."

Carlos Valderrama remains Colombia's most not-able performer, although as much for his incandescent Afro as for his influence as a playmaker. "I don't want to knock him but I'll put it this way," Brown said. "A few years ago we would have man-marked him tightly. I wouldn't do it now because it would be a waste of a player."

"He's still the linchpin, he can hit a sweet pass and he's always clever at free kicks and corners. But we usually pick out the chief in the other team and try to negate him. I don't see Valderrama in those terms

any more. He's nearly 37 and the level he's playing at (Major League Soccer in the US) may not be conducive to competing with the best."

Brown believes that the departure of Faustino Asprilla should also help England. The Scots found that one moment the former Newcastle player was "like a rag doll, with his arms all floppy as if he was sulking." The next he would "explode into life." He regards their firepower as diminished, but warns that they remain adept counter-attackers.

Of Colombia's old guard, Brown sees Rincón as "still a very good player" in midfield. Among the newer faces introduced since their disastrous appearance at the 1994 finals, he has been impressed by Bermudez, who now fills the late Andres Escobar's position at the back.

"He's a big, strong player who is dangerous at set pieces - either taking them, if Valderrama will let him near the ball, or trying to get on the end of them," said Brown. "Nobody will handle Shearer at his best, but Bermudez and a couple of his fellow defenders are tough customers."



Carlos Valderrama, Colombia's veteran playmaker, leaves the pitch after training in Lens yesterday

## Referees' displays improve says Fifa

FIFA YESTERDAY awarded a green card to World Cup referees, describing the standard of officiating in France as "very high" and a distinct improvement on the last finals in 1994.

David Will, the chairman of the referees' committee of world football's governing body, said that Fifa has been delighted with the referees and linesmen in France. "The overall standard is very high, higher than it was in the USA in 1994, there is no doubt about that," he said.

"Of course there have been some mistakes," Will added. "But I would say there were only three refereeing performances with which we were not satisfied." He would not reveal which ones they were.

Will reiterated Fifa's policy that video technology would not be used in the foreseeable future to help referees make decisions. "I do not want to create a situation where the referee is no more than a secretary on the field of play for a supervisor sitting in the stand in front of a batch of TV monitors," he said.

Two international careers came to an end on Wednesday night. The veteran Spanish goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta and the Bulgarian coach, Hristo Bonev, both announced their respective resignations following Spain's 6-1 victory over Bulgaria in Lens, after which both countries were eliminated.

Bonev, whose team went home with a single point and a single goal, said: "I can't go on in charge after the way the team has played in this World Cup. I have principles." Zubizarreta, who has retired from playing, is expected to become an assistant coach to the Spanish national team.

## United move to keep Kidd from Everton

By ALAN NIXON

MANCHESTER UNITED are offering Brian Kidd a pay rise and a chance of becoming the next manager to stop him moving to Everton. Kidd has been in negotiations with United's plc for the past few days about the threat of leaving to become Howard Kendall's replacement.

Everton have already made an approach to United for Kidd, Alex Ferguson's assistant manager, and the Old Trafford club have been talking to Kidd about an improved contract and, above all, his long-term future. Ferguson has admitted he will retire in the next few years and Kidd is concerned that Bryan Robson, the former United captain and current manager of Middlesbrough, is the favoured candidate to replace

him. However, Kidd may emerge from the negotiations with that guarantee in his new deal or some form of assurance that his position would be safe in a new regime.

Everton are offering Kidd the chance to become his own man immediately, a prospect that also interests him.

Kidd is Everton's first choice to take over from Kendall, who was sacked yesterday after three weeks of waiting for the news to be delivered by the Goodison chairman, Peter Johnson. Martin O'Neill was the favourite for the job until he chose to stay at Leicester. O'Neill would not quit for Everton while Kendall was still in a job and now the opportunity may have passed although he could yet re-emerge as the leading candidate if Kidd stays at United.

Johnson dismissed Kendall before last night's board meeting, the minutes for which revealed the decision had been made three weeks ago.

Since then Johnson has been trying to find a replacement from his Jersey base and

from his yacht in the south of France.

Yet Everton were yesterday maintaining that Kendall's third spell at the club was ended by mutual consent. Kendall said: "I leave with regrets but I know our support-

ers will understand this club deserves success."

Johnson said: "It saddens me because Howard is a man of the highest integrity and I'm bitterly disappointed that his third term in office did not end on a successful note."

Steve Bruce's move to become Sheffield United's new player-manager has hit a stumbling block over the amount of compensation Birmingham City would receive for their captain. Birmingham will free Bruce if he goes into management, but want a fee for him if he is to continue playing. United are reluctant to pay for the transfer as well as his wages.

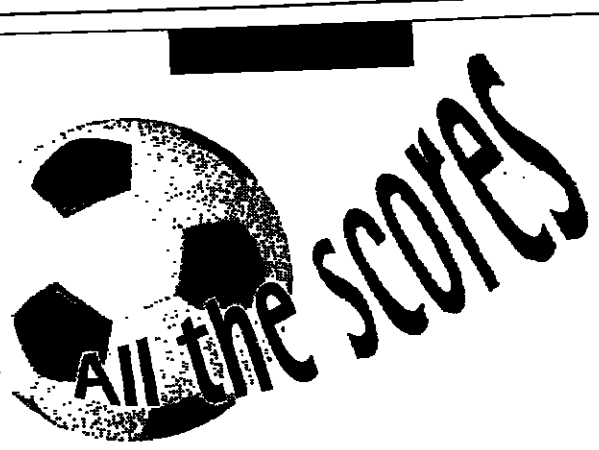
Brian McClair, a former team-mate of Bruce at Manchester United, was on the move yesterday as he confirmed he is returning to

Motherwell, the club where he started his senior career. The 34-year-old former Scotland international has signed a three-year deal at Fir Park.

Mickey Adams is quitting as manager of Brentford to become a coach at First Division Huddersfield Town. Adams is unhappy at Brentford, where his position has been undermined with the arrival of Ray Lewington from Crystal Palace. Adams, squeezed out of Fulham, will team up with Peter Jackson and Terry Yorath.

Brentford, meanwhile, confirmed Ron Noades as their new chairman. Noades was the Crystal Palace chairman before Mark Goldberg's £22m takeover at Selhurst Park.

Tony Swaisland has stepped down as Brentford chairman, but will remain on the board.

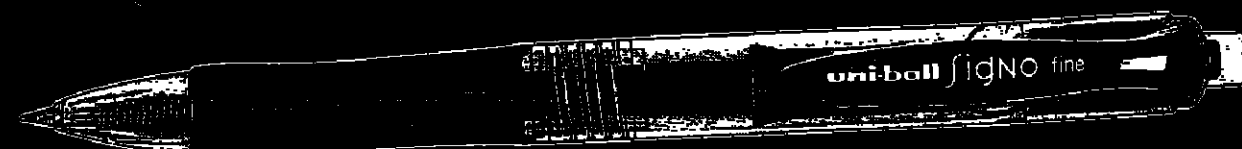


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# Romania keen to maintain impetus

ROMANIA ARE out to make sure of topping Group G today, but their coach, Anghel Iordanescu, will ring the changes in the side to meet a spirited Tunisia at the Stade de France.

The Africans are already eliminated and have fired their coach, but a classy 2-1 victory against England last Monday announced Romania as a force to be reckoned with and ensured they would qualify for the second round.

It also meant they could expect to secure themselves a second-round match against Croatia rather than the more fancied Argentines if the remaining games in Group H went to form.

"I prefer Croatia but at this level no games are easy, not for any team," Romania's coach, Anghel Iordanescu, said. But it will be a changed side that faces the Tunisians in St Denis.

"I have to save the players already booked in order to field the strongest team against

Croatia or Argentina in the second round," Iordanescu said yesterday.

The key defenders Gheorghe Popescu, Dan Petrescu and Liviu Ciobotariu were booked in the previous group matches and a second second bookable offence against Tunisia would automatically ban them from second-round match.

"I'll make substantial changes in the defence line for the match against Tunisia, but our team will still play to win," Iordanescu said.

The wing-back Tibor Selymes, who has been out of action with a leg injury, looks in line for a call-up. "If the doctor gives me a last-minute green light for him, Selymes will play against Tunisia," Iordanescu said.

The coach is keen to let



Romania's Dan Petrescu (left) and keeper Bogdan Stelea train at the Stade de France yesterday

AFP

some players rest, including the captain, Gheorghe Hagi, though he may play 45 minutes. "Hagi looked tired at the end of the last match," Iordanescu said. "There is nothing unusual in that as he played more than 50 matches with his club Galatasaray."

Hagi and his midfield teammate Dorinel Munteanu were

also booked once during the matches against Colombia and England. The midfielder Ovidiu Stanga is out of action with serious ligament problems and will miss the rest of the tournament.

Romania have defied the critics - especially at home - who said they relied too much on an ageing generation that

peaked at the 1994 World Cup, when they reached the quarter-finals. Valencia's young striker Adrian Ilie has been one of the revelations of the tournament - and Hagi feels the team is better than the 1994 side.

The best Tunisia can hope for is to end a run of four World Cup matches without scoring dating back to their last finals

appearance in 1978. They can also try to shrug off the upheaval of losing their Polish coach, Henryk Kasprczak, since the last game and improve on two performances that have disappointed those who thought they were capable of showing the attacking zest of their neighbours, Morocco.



## DIARY

IT IS truly amazing that we have reached the midway point of the tournament - 16 days gone, 44 games played - and only now has word come through as to who Bangkok's monks are tipping for the World Cup. A poll of 537 monks living in the Thai capital found, surprise, surprise, that 46 per cent backed Brazil with 29 per cent favouring England.

FIFA, THE game's governing body, has used an Internet photograph to show that the American referee Esfandiar Baharmast was right to award the last-minute penalty which helped Norway beat Brazil and deny Morocco a place in the second round, a shirt-pulling infringement not visible in television replays.

David Will, the chairman of the World Cup referees committee said: "Everyone says that from every angle there was no foul but there is a picture on the Internet [taken by a Swedish TV crew] which shows this exact incident."

NET SURFERS have discovered the World Cup in a big way, with well over 450 million hits registered on the official site (www.France98.com) since the tournament kicked off Monday 15 June - the day of England v Tunisia - was the most popular day so far with 59 million hits, beating the previous record of 56 million in one day, recorded by the official website for the Winter Olympics in Nagano.

Compiled by Trevor Haylett

## QUOTES OF THE DAY

"This is for the whole of South America. Many people are starving there. The economic and financial situation is terrible, but people at least have football to take their minds off things." Paraguay's goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert, whose side have reached the second round.

"The players stopped fighting. They looked completely lost." Bulgaria's departing coach, Hristo Bonev.

# Defeat is not so bad, it's hope that is intolerable

THE SMALL northern town of Lens is as tense and wound-up as a nervous bomb-defuser tackling a highly booby-trapped unexploded bomb, timed to go off tonight.

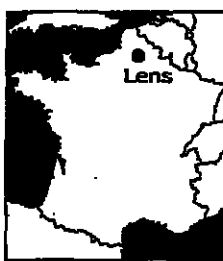
I swear all I did was send back the café au lait in Le Michelet on the main street - "Monsieur, this milk is cold. You cannot make a decent café au lait with cold milk" - and within 10 seconds too, I am not making this up, five bus-loads of policemen in full riot gear pulled up outside and piled out. Someone had pressed the panic button. I slipped away in all the confusion and doubled back later to find harmonious handshaking and photos being taken.

A British brass band - curiously garbed in gaucho gear but bearing Union Jacks - strikes up the Match of the Day theme tune on the main square in front of the Hôtel de Ville. But, in truth, there is a sombreness in Lens which has nothing to do with the slag piles on the edge of town. Over at Le Sporting bar, the Tammy is belting out Frank Sinatra's My Way, but the only line that strikes a chord with the listless fans sitting about at the tables is, "Regrets, I've had a few". "Regrets. Regrets. You can say that again!" pipes up one, miserably.

The ruthless laws of supply and demand are starting to bite. While the price of tickets has been ratcheted up to £250 each, most of the would-be buyers are running low on cash and



ANDY  
MARTIN  
AT LARGE  
IN FRANCE



optimism. "I've only got a hundred left," says one, "I'm nearly cleaned out already."

Meanwhile, at the other end of the spectrum, a few tables away, a tout is cracking a deal over his mobile for £3,000 (for what precisely I don't like to ask). "It's a nightmare," says another. He is talking about the camping ground where he has set up miles out of town, but he might as well be referring to the semi-apocalyptic mood prevailing here.

Years ago, as I was revising for my university exams and bemoaning my lot, Alf - the psychologist I shared a house with - used to go about saying, "Enjoy the pain". It annoyed the hell out of me at the time, so I decided not to bother with that line where discontented fans were concerned. But there is no question that a degree of masochistic pleasure in suffering has set in over here.

The great thing about the kind of pain induced by a major trauma (let's say, for the sake of example, a World Cup de-

feat), I have realised over the last couple of days, is that it blots out every other kind of pain - for a while at least. And there is a definite solidarity in suffering. Variations on the theme of "Poor old Scotland/Morocco/Spain" can be heard on every street corner, even in Paris, a city not normally noted for its compassion. No, disappointment and dismay and depression are not so bad - they are a kind of catharsis.

The only thing that is intolerable, especially in Lens, is hope. Hope, if I remember correctly, was the last of the dreadful vices to be let out of Pandora's Box - and the worst because it sharpened all the other assorted torments. Hope, at present, is buried and secret and publicly inadmissible.

The talk is all of early exits and who-will-replace-Hodde speculation. But there is a perverse psychology at work here which we can see as a version of the wrong-footing bet. Everyone knows that the penalty-

taker tries to make the keeper go one way so that he can blast the ball into the opposite corner. Equally, the goalie often tries to make the penalty-taker think he is going right (let's say), so that the ball will go left (which is the way, in reality, he was planning to jump all along). The wrong-footing bet plays the same sort of cunning game with the larger forces of fate.

Raffaele, who makes coffee into an art form in my favourite bar, is an old hand at this trick. If he wants Italy to win, he will go out and place a bet on the opposition. Since he invariably loses, the chances are that Italy will win, and if they don't he has the certain consolation of collecting his winnings.

Such is the inverse prayer: if you want something to happen, pray for the exact opposite. Something like this paradoxical strategy is even now being tried out by downbeat and desperate England fans gearing up for the big one. Expect the worst, actively embrace it, live it, and all may yet be well.

## THE GLOBAL GAME

### THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

very serious thing that engages the feelings of a nation." "El País" on Spain's elimination from the World Cup despite Wednesday's 6-1 victory over Bulgaria.

"JAVIER CLEMENTE's squad has been a corpse for 10 days and was revived just in time to attend its own burial. For the

Spaniards it's the end of an adventure, and it must also be the end of a management style, the end of an epoch. Spain achieved a historic score but, you know, a miserable 1-0 would almost have been better. It would not have left such a foul taste in the mouth." "El Mundo" tells Spain's coach where to go.

"ON SUNDAY in Lens the France team of Djorkaeff, Desailly and Barthez will meet Paraguay in the second round. In Sweden 40 years ago the France team of Kopa, Fontaine and Piantoni put seven goals past the "Albirroja" (the red and whites) in a first-round match which promised much and led eventually to an excellent third place in the tournament. This time France are the clear favourites." "Le Monde" on the host nation.

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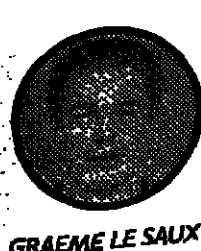
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30/WORLD CUP

# Mexico prove the equal of Dutch

By ADAM SZRETER  
at Stade Geoffroy Guichard,  
St Etienne

Netherlands  
Cocu 4, R de Boer 19  
Mexico  
Pelez 75, Hernandez 90  
Att: 35,500

AN EQUALISING goal by Luis Hernandez in the fifth minute of stoppage time provided a fitting climax to a spirited second-half display by Mexico yesterday. Unbeknown to the jubilant Hernandez, however, Belgium's failure to overcome South Korea in Paris meant that even had they lost Mexico would have gone through to the second round along with The Netherlands from Group E.

Perhaps also if someone had told Ramon Ramirez, the Mexican midfielder player, that South Korea had equalised against the Belgians he would not have protested so vehemently, earning himself a red card, after an 88th-minute effort from Cuauhtemoc Blanco was ruled out for offside. It seemed the Mexicans had been hard done by, but replays showed the decision to be a correct one and they will miss Ramirez's cultured left foot in the next round.

The Netherlands, who only needed a point to make sure of heading the Group, began in the same irrepressible vein that swept South Korea aside in their last match, scoring here after just four minutes when Philip Cocu raced on to Dennis Bergkamp's superb pass and flicked the ball past Jorge Campos for his second goal of the tournament. Mexico responded five minutes later but Ramirez's shot following a quick free-kick was palmed to safety by Edwin Van der Saar. The Dutch, however, were

finding space at will between Mexico's harassed defenders, and it was no surprise when they increased their lead after 18 minutes. Cocu won the ball in the air for Ronald de Boer, who evaded Claudio Suarez and Joel Sanchez before sliding his shot back across the face of goal and in off the far post.

Mexico might have been three down before the break, as first Bergkamp's header was clawed away by Campos after an error from Daulto Davino, and then Marc Overmars, played through by Cocu, chipped Campos but the ball dropped the wrong side of the post.

Five minutes into the second half Cocu rattled the bar after a great one-two with Bergkamp, but thereafter Gans Hidink's side began to take their foot off the pedal. Fifteen minutes from time, a header by substitute Ricardo Pelaez from German Villa's corner found its way through a packed penalty area past Van der Saar and suddenly the Dutch looked vulnerable.

Six minutes from time Jesus Arellano, another substitute, was inches away from connecting with Salvador Carranza's low cross, then came the contentious offside and Ramirez's dismissal. Edgar Davids and Aron Winter missed good chances to wrap it up for the Netherlands, but with virtually the last kick of the match Hernandez latched on to a loose ball to equalise.

**NETHERLANDS (4-2-2):** Van der Saar (Ajax); Bergkamp (Barcelona), Stam (PSV Eindhoven), R de Boer (Ajax), Numan (PSV Eindhoven); R de Boer (Ajax), Joop (PSV Eindhoven), Davids (Juventus), Overmars (Arsenal); Substitutes: Winter (Internationale) for Joop, 71; Bogaard (Barcelona) for Numan, 72; Muntari (Lazio) for Bergkamp, 75. **MEXICO (3-5-2):** Campos (UNAM), I Sanchez (Guadalajara), Suarez (Guadalajara), Davila (Jaguares), Carranza (Toluca), Villa (America), Garcia Aspe (America), Ramirez (Guadalajara), Luna (UNAM), Blanco (Necaxa), Hernandez (Puebla), Substitutes: Arellano (Guadalajara) for Luna, 84; Pelaez (America) for Sanchez, 85. Referee: A R Al-Zaidi (Saudi Arabia).



Mexico's Luis Hernandez keeps the ball from Dutch defender Ronald de Boer during yesterday's 2-2 draw which saw both countries qualify for the second round

## Belgium pay for a lack of adventure

By ANDREW WARSHAW  
at Parc des Princes, Paris

Belgium  
Nillis 7  
South Korea  
Yoo Sang-chul  
Att: 48,500

FOR ONCE, the World Cup fates came down on the side of justice. After the cruel eliminations and Morocco and Spain, the ageing, predictable Belgium went out yesterday.

The Belgians had previously reached the second round of every finals they had qualified for since 1970, but they were held by the spirited South Koreans, who equalised 20 minutes from time through Yoo Sang-chul. The Korean captain's cancelled out Luc Nilis's early effort and earned the joint hosts of the next finals their first point.

It was no less than the Koreans deserved: they could have scored four, Choi Yong-soo putting two point-blank headers

over the bar and firing into the side netting as the desperate Belgians pushed forward looking for a winner. As it turned out, matters were not in Belgian hands. Mexico's late equaliser against the Netherlands in St Etienne meant both those teams would go through.

Belgium, needing goals to boost their inferior goal difference in case that proved the decisive factor, they rested their 37-year-old captain, Franky van der Elst. He did come on for the last half-hour, replacing another

of Belgium's favourite sons, Enzo Scifo, who had taken over the skipper's armband.

Belgium swarmed forward from the kick-off and took the lead when Gordan Vidovic's goalkick header was cleared off the line and Luc Nilis rifled in the rebound. Instead of trying to put the game beyond doubt, they retreated into their normal attritional style for the rest of the first half and were fortunate when Choi Yong-soo was wrongly ruled offside when clear on goal.

Belgium replaced the ineffective Fiorentina attacker Luis Oliveira with Mbo Mpenza for the second half but he fared little better and Korea fully deserved their equaliser, when Yoo finished off a free-kick from the left.

Belgium's coach, George Leekens, was at a loss to explain his side's poor performances that brought three draws. "I don't know why, perhaps it was mental," he said. "In this championship, we didn't have enough ideas."

**NETHERLANDS (4-2-2):** Van der Saar (Ajax); Bergkamp (Barcelona), Stam (PSV Eindhoven), R de Boer (Ajax), Numan (PSV Eindhoven); R de Boer (Ajax), Joop (PSV Eindhoven), Davids (Juventus), Overmars (Arsenal); Substitutes: Winter (Internationale) for Joop, 71; Bogaard (Barcelona) for Numan, 72; Muntari (Lazio) for Bergkamp, 75. **MEXICO (3-5-2):** Campos (UNAM), I Sanchez (Guadalajara), Suarez (Guadalajara), Davila (Jaguares), Carranza (Toluca), Villa (America), Garcia Aspe (America), Ramirez (Guadalajara), Luna (UNAM), Blanco (Necaxa), Hernandez (Puebla), Substitutes: Arellano (Guadalajara) for Luna, 84; Pelaez (America) for Sanchez, 85. Referee: A R Al-Zaidi (Saudi Arabia).

## France 'can go all the way'

FRANCE'S STYLISH first-round performances have established them as serious contenders to lift the World Cup for the first time. That is a view supported by Denmark's goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel after what was virtually a French reserve side outclassed the Danes to become the first team to qualify with a 100 per cent record.

"This is one of the best teams I've played against in a long time," said the Manchester United No 1 yesterday. "They did enough to be in control of the game, then they held back and saved energy for their next game. They were strong, they kept the ball really well and they are a very, very difficult side to play against. If they keep playing like that, they can go all the way."

After watching his side trounce South Africa and Saudi

Arabia, the coach, Aimé Jacquet, made no fewer than eight changes for Wednesday's match. But even the absence of the Juventus playmaker, Zinedine Zidane, failed to prevent the French carving out chance after chance while rarely looking troubled by Denmark's Landrup brothers.

The performance has left Jacquet with some tough selection choices for Sunday's second-round fixture with Paraguay in Lens.

Patrick Vieira and Emmanuel Petit, the midfield stalwarts of Arsenal's Premiership and FA Cup double last season, both seized their chances to force their way into Jacquet's second-round plans. But the coach is virtually certain to recall his captain, Didier Deschamps, who was rested on Wednesday for fear he would

pick up a second yellow card that would have meant an automatic one-match suspension.

That will mean Vieira is likely to step down but Petit was optimistic that he would keep his place after scoring the winning goal against the Danes. "It is up to the coach but I was very happy for the team and with my personal performance," he said. The continued absence of Zidane, who earned a two-match suspension for a red card against Saudi Arabia, is likely to keep Petit in the team.

Franck Leboeuf also impressed against the Danes, playing alongside his new Chelsea team-mate Marcel Desailly. But the defender was resigned to making way for the experienced Laurent Blanc for the second round. "Jacquet has got his idea about the team, so I do not think I'll play in the next

match," he said. Despite the plaudits he has won in England with his cool performances for Chelsea, Leboeuf's international ambitions have undoubtedly been handicapped by some hostility from sections of the French press.

France's first-round displays have also thoroughly vindicated Jacquet, whose preparations for France 98 were subject to a constant barrage of criticism from the influential sports daily L'Equipe.

The French coach has spent the last two years ensuring that the high-quality group of players at his disposal can play in several different systems. The price of experimenting was some indifferent performances in pre-tournament friendlies, but the wisdom of Jacquet's strategy was there for all to see against the Danes.

## Blazevic will keep Croats on their toes

CROATIA'S COACH Miroslav Blazevic is putting out his strongest possible side to face Argentina in Montpellier today - because he wants to play England in the next round of the World Cup rather than Romania. The Croats, like Argentina, have already qualified for the next round of France 98, but whoever comes top may face Glenn Hoddle's side.

Blazevic said: "Against Argentina I'm going to put the best team possible on the pitch in order to finish top of the group. I'd rather face England than Romania, as Romania play the same style of game that we do. Sure, Argentina are favourites to win, but I think we can beat them."

Croatia will be strengthened by the return of their captain and playmaker Zvonimir Boban, who sat out the Japan game with a pulled leg muscle. Argentina's captain, Diego Simeone, who watched from the terraces as an eight-year-old when Mario Kempes won the 1978 World Cup in Buenos

Aires, claims the side have yet to show their true colours, despite putting five past Jamaica earlier this week. Simeone, who plays for Internazionale in Italy, said: "We haven't yet reached our peak and we hope to be even better against Croatia."

Meanwhile, the striker Gabriel Batistuta - with four goals already for the tournament - claims winning the Golden Boot could not be further from his mind. "I'm not here to become top scorer in the World Cup - the team is more important," he insisted. "I just think we should attack, although I have no real preference as to our next opponents."

The defender Roberto Sensi limped off against Jamaica with a pulled muscle and coach Daniel Passarella is expected to bring in Nelson Vivas. He may also rest the left-back Jose Chamot because he has already been cautioned once.

Croatia's only absentee is the veteran Derby defender Igor Stimac, suffering from blistered feet. Silvio Maric will

take his place. It will be the first meeting between the two countries, but one Croatian player has already faced the South Americans in the World Cup. The midfielder Robert Prosinecki played in the 1990 Yugoslavia team eliminated by Diego Maradona's Argentina in the quarter-finals after a penalty shoot-out.

In today's other Group F game, Japan and Jamaica hope to salvage a little pride and a point from their encounter in Nantes before bidding farewell to their first World Cup.

"From now on our only aim is to win the third match against Jamaica," said the Japanese striker Masashi Nakayama. "It was great for us to come to France but as long as we haven't won a World Cup match we won't be able to say that Japan are one of the world heavyweights." There is little at stake but self-esteem after the two debutants both suffered predictable defeats at the hands of the group favourites, Argentina and Croatia.

## IN FRANCE WITHOUT A TICKET

Nicholas Harking's daily quest to see a World Cup match: Day 16

The quadrennial surge of interest in football born by the fair sex does not fortunately include Susan, the Nigerian wife of my Belgian friend. Her one World Cup excursion to Nantes for Brazil v Morocco was more than she could handle, I was delighted to discover, when I turned up at the Parc des Princes yesterday for Belgium's game against South Korea. I had never met the lady but the introduction, so far as I was concerned, for purely selfish reasons, could wait. For four days I had been on a promise. If she didn't turn up I could have her ticket. She didn't so I was in at cost price, 145 francs. Even though other women - as well as men - were rather more enthusiastic, the touts certainly weren't making a killing.

Total games: 16. Total cost price: 5,980fr. Total price paid: 6,055fr. Two failures to get in.

AS EVERY SPORTSMAN KNOWS,  
SECONDS ARE NEVER GOOD ENOUGH.

Accurist





## SPORT

VALDERRAMA LIES IN WAIT P28 • WILKINSON WOOS WIMBLEDON P24

## Owen ready to take his chance



Michael Owen, England's teenage striker, is a lone figure as the evening light casts long shadows on the Stade Félix Bollaert turf in Lens yesterday

David Ashdown

By GLENN MOORE  
Football Correspondent

AFTER 45 matches in eight largely predictable groups the real World Cup starts tomorrow. Fifteen teams, including every serious contender except Spain, have qualified for the knockout stages. Tonight, in the Stade Félix Bollaert in Lens, England seek to take the last place.

A point against Colombia will be enough to earn England a second-round tie against Argentina or Croatia in St Etienne on Tuesday. It ought to be within England's grasp to do so, but they will have to produce a better performance than has become the norm.

Michael Owen seems certain to start, which should give England more urgency and potency in attack. However, Teddy Sheringham's consequent absence does change the balance of the side and ought to provoke changes in midfield. If David Batty and Paul Ince both play there is a danger that the forward pair will become isolated and the rest of the team tempted into playing long balls over the top for Owen

to chase. This happened when Alan Shearer and Owen started together against Switzerland in March. There will also be a reduction in creativity.

The solution is to drop Batty and play David Beckham, but Glenn Hoddle usually takes the defensive option under pressure and, since only a draw is required, the England coach is likely to want both midfield anchors in place. However, the decision may be taken for him by the state of Ince's ankle. He is still undergoing intensive treatment and, even if he starts, may not finish. Should he prove unfit Beckham will surely play, although Hoddle may be tempted to use the prosaic but reliable Rob Lee.

The defence is likely to be unchanged, particularly as Gareth Southgate has failed to recover from his ankle injury. This is despite the carelessness of Toulouse and a groundswell of support for a reversion to the more familiar flat back four. A change in formation is unlikely because Hoddle is convinced his system is the best. A change in personnel is also unlikely, because

the most negligent player on Monday against Romania is also the most secure: Graeme Le Saux, as the only left-footed player in the squad, is almost guaranteed his starting place.

Hoddle has looked tense and tired since the defeat to Romania and his mood cannot have been helped by news that the bookies are taking bets on the identity of his replacement. John Gorman, his assistant and a close friend for more than 20 years, said Hoddle remained "calm and confident". Gorman added: "He believes we will qualify just as he did after we lost at home to Italy. He's not arrogant, he listens to other people, but he is his own

man. His self-belief comes from deep within and it is growing."

Worryingly for Hoddle, Colombia have similar strengths to Romania. They have plenty of players with World Cup experience, are technically gifted, possess an aging but still world-class playmaker and have quick-footed forwards.

The key player remains Carlos Valderrama, who has the ability to damage England in the same way as Romania's Gheorghe Hagi did in Toulouse. England will need to get much closer to Valderrama than they did Hagi. In attack, Colombia have a choice between Victor Aristizabal, who came into the tournament

under a death threat, Anthony De Arriba, who dedicated the goal that earned Colombia's qualification to two jailed drug barons, Adolfo Valencia and Leider Preciado, who came on and scored the winner against Tunisia. There is also the long-legged Freddy Rincon, once of Real Madrid.

Colombia operate a flat back four, which may be more susceptible to Owen than either Romania or Tunisia, who both played with a sweeper. The full-backs press forward, which could cause problems for an England side that has appeared vulnerable on the flanks. However, the first-choice left-back,

Jose Santa, is suspended. They are also missing the mercurial former Newcastle United forward, Faustino Asprilla, after he was thrown out of the squad last week. Asprilla's departure may, however, have lifted spirits in the Colombia camp.

England last played Colombia at Wembley in the build-up to Euro 96. Although the match was drawn, the hosts were occasionally embarrassed by the South Americans' ability to pass the ball around them.

"It obviously won't be a walkover and although Asprilla won't be playing, they've plenty of other good players," Sol Campbell said. "We found against Romania that if you give people space they will punish you, so we will have to watch that."

England were encouraged by the number of chances Tunisia created against Colombia and would expect to do the same. With finishers of the quality of Owen and Shearer in the team, England ought to be capable of scoring once. And that ought to be enough to secure the point they crave.

ENGLAND (3-5-2) probable: Seaman; G. Neville, Adams, Campbell, Anderson, Beckham or Ince, Scholes, Batty, Le Saux, Owen, Shearer.

## GROUP G PERMUTATIONS

The group winners meet the runners-up from Group H and the second-placed team meet the Group H winners. Both matches are to be played on Tuesday. Qualification decided by (in order): points, goal difference, number of goals scored, outcome of encounter between the two sides, drawing of lots.

1 England beat Colombia; Romania beat Tunisia; England win group and England are runners-up.  
2 England draw with Colombia; Romania beat Tunisia; Romania win group and England are runners-up.  
3 England draw with Colombia; Romania draw with Tunisia; Romania win group and England are runners-up.  
4 England draw with Colombia; Romania draw with Tunisia; Romania win group and England are runners-up.  
5 England draw with Colombia; Romania draw with Tunisia; Romania win group and England are runners-up.  
6 England draw with Colombia; Tunisia beat Romania; Romania win group and England are runners-up.  
7 Colombia beat England; Romania beat Tunisia; Romania win group and Colombia are runners-up.

Tunisia: Romania win group and Colombia are runners-up.  
8 Colombia beat England; Romania draw with Tunisia; Romania win group and Colombia are runners-up.  
9 Colombia beat England; Tunisia beat Romania; Both Colombia and Romania finish on six points. If Romania lose by a two-goal margin Colombia will win the group. If Romania lose by a single-goal margin, a two-goal winning margin for Colombia would see them finish group winners; if the margin is one goal in each case then Colombia will need to score three more goals than Romania score tonight.

THREE LIONS  
VERSUS SOUTH  
AMERICA

England's World Cup record against South American countries

1950 BRAZIL  
Group phase  
England 2  
Mortensen, Marmion  
Chile 0

1954 SWITZERLAND  
Quarter-finals  
England 2  
Loftus, Finney  
Uruguay 4  
Borges, Varela,  
Schiaffino, Ambrosio

1958 SWEDEN  
Group phase  
England 0  
Brazil 0

1962 CHILE  
Group phase  
England 3  
Flowers pen, Charlton, Greaves  
Argentina 1  
Sanfilippo  
England 1  
Hitchens  
Brazil 3  
Garrincha 2, Vava

1966 ENGLAND  
Group phase  
England 0  
Uruguay 0  
England 2  
R Charlton, Hunt  
Mexico 0  
Quarter-finals  
England 1  
Hurst  
Argentina 0

1970 MEXICO  
Group phase  
England 0  
Brazil 1  
Jairzinho

1986 MEXICO  
Second round  
England 5  
Lineker 2, Beardsley  
Paraguay 0  
Quarter-finals  
England 1  
Lineker  
Argentina 2  
Maradona 2

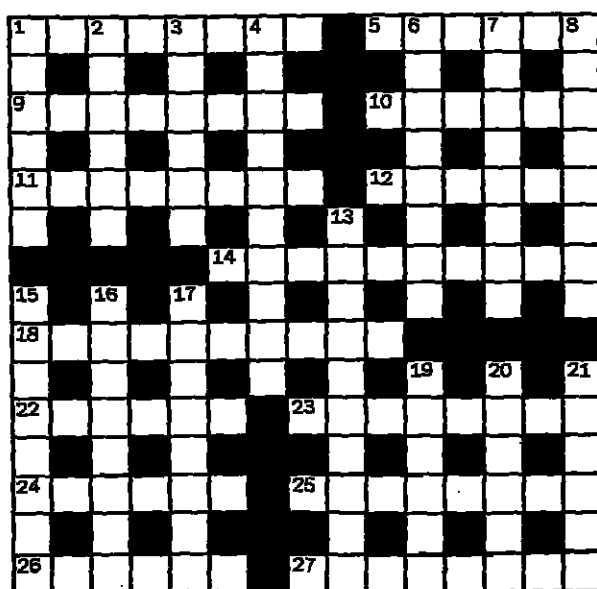
Total P W D L F A  
11 5 2 4 15 11

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3646, Thursday 25 June

By Mass

Wednesday's solution



- ACROSS
- 1 Dexterity gets learner fired. Complaint must follow (8)
  - 5 Slight old fellow has to make do (6)
  - 9 Leak caused by severe conditions (8)
  - 10 Crows calling for Member in the House? (6)
  - 11 Washes 100 glasses audibly (8)
  - 12 One to watch? Somebody without note? (6)
  - 14 Looking bright, with lens capturing one cloud (10)
  - 18 Quaint and virtually dated, maybe (10)
  - 22 Bear plate back? (6)
  - 23 Rejected complete nonsense about Italian pancake (8)
  - 24 Corrects extremities about State (6)
  - 25 Increasingly sober on a more regular basis (8)
  - 26 Prepares grilled trout on Sunday (6)
  - 27 A figure produced by writer with epithet added (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Turn South on boat (6)
  - 2 One following suit - firm feature of bridge (6)
  - 3 Edging forward, fall in drink (6)
  - 4 Scenario: rising mountain in wild scenery (10)
  - 6 Help with cuts, finding tree rigid (5, 3)
  - 7 Spain? Great! I'm off to settle abroad (8)
  - 8 Woman's exacting part (8)
  - 13 Item for putting in hock (4, 6)
  - 15 A bird (domesticated) with a comb (8)
  - 16 Grinding pace gets tailenders in marathon event (8)
  - 17 Queen's in smoother blue (8)
  - 19 Sound tight (6)
  - 20 Dashing unknown's entered the dance (6)
  - 21 Very dry? Slip up into bar (6)

REYARD SCENES  
E O Q M P U A P  
C O T A G E H O S I T I A L  
T A S T I H I A  
P I L O T G L A M O U R O U S  
E A R Y L U N H  
A B L A Z E Q U I D E A L  
S M E E  
S H A N E S V I S I B L E  
C I U E I I O I  
H A N D I C A P S M I T T E  
U E S M I T T E A  
K I N D H E A R T I N E S S  
H C E E S P L I E  
A G E N C I A P L A Y E R

## Players hoping to give pace a chance

With his speed, ability and belief, the stage is now set for the arrival of Michael Owen. By Glenn Moore

LIKE A LOT of people in football, Steve McManaman can remember the first time he saw Michael Owen play. It was a quiet afternoon in Liverpool and he had wandered up to Anfield to watch a youth team game. "He just stood out," recalled McManaman yesterday. "It was just like the first time I saw Robbie Fowler play two or three years earlier."

"Robbie scored five goals for the first team when he was 18 (against Fulham) and has gone on to have a phenomenal goalscoring record. I'd love to think Michael will do the same."

"He's very relaxed with a great temperament. I've every confidence in him if he plays. Nothing fazes him, he's been well brought up by his family and by the people at Liverpool. If he plays against Colombia I have every confidence in him."

Owen is expected to start in Lens tonight and Sol Campbell, with a defender's perspective, explained why. "All the best strikers here have some kind of pace and his pace would frighten anyone. His size is also an asset. Players who are small and quick are often harder to deal with than ones who are big and quick."

"By itself, however, pace is not enough, you have to have football sense too. He's very intelligent with his runs. If you give him half a chance he'll go by you."

McManaman added: "He reads the game well, has good control and he believes if he gets a chance he'll score. Goalscorers are like that. On Monday he came on and changed the game. He wants to score goals and if you put ball in box he'll be there."

"We know if we give him the ball in a dangerous position he'll go at the defender and beat him. The first thing he does when he gets the ball is go at people with pace and that frightens the life out of defenders."

"He has played a lot of games and people have talked about resting him but he was playing that well last season it was impossible to leave him out. He was the star man among the forwards. I just hope it doesn't catch up with him around Christmas and Liverpool suffer because of his lack of rest."

There is no sign of that at present with Owen, despite playing more than 50 games this season he looks to be one of the freshest in the squad. "It's very exciting," said John Gorman, England's assistant coach. "We are in at the start of what, barring injury, could be a fantastic career."

"He's a confident young lad but not too confident. He's not afraid to voice his opinion but he accepts what the coaches have to say. He'll have a laugh and joke with the lads and is very much part of everything."

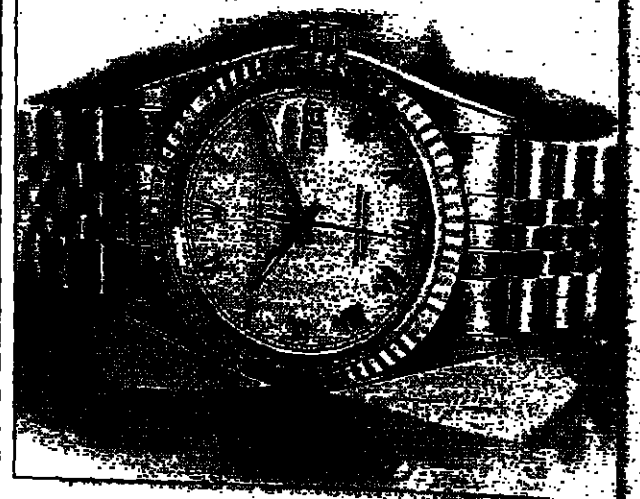
More so than McManaman whose apparent absence even from consideration for selection has irked the Liverpool manager Roy Evans. "Macca appears to have become England's forgotten man," said Evans yesterday. "I just can't believe he isn't getting a mention given how dangerous he is with the ball at his feet, running at people. I'm not trying to tell Glenn Hoddle who to pick but some of the stuff he produced for us last season was outstanding."

The player himself is relatively phlegmatic. "It's frustrating, especially when we were getting beat, but I'm totally committed to the lads," he said. McManaman's prospects should be helped by Owen's emergence. As Campbell said: "At Liverpool the midfield are on his wavelength, they give him balls which make the most of his pace. If that isn't the case his runs may not be picked up."

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## FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Danger:  
women  
at work

BY SUZANNE MOORE

**D**o you want sex at work? That is not as straightforward a question as it might first appear. We live in a time when many of the key battles for female equality have moved out of the domestic sphere and into the workplace. How men and women treat each other at work is an increasing preoccupation. Do they promote each other? Exclude one another? Sexually harass each other? Zillions of stereotypes about working women pour out of the media every single day. From the predatory female boss of *Disclosure* to doe-eyed Ally McBeal in the Channel Four series of the same name (both incidentally are male creations), they reflect our anxiety about the cultural shifts produced by a greater number of women than ever before entering the workforce.

An advert produced by Jockey which shows five gorgeous young women wearing power jackets on their top halves and only 'hosiery' on their bottom halves has caused a stir in America because the women featured are not models. When these five women are not having their fantastic legs photographed they are in fact bankers and brokers on Wall Street. Are they doing a disservice to their sisters by posing in such a way, or are they simply having fun? Some women's rights organisations don't think that this is fun at all. "Women embroiled in sexual harassment situations don't have the luxury to joke about like this," says Gretchen Primark, the president of Women's Rights at Work. Well, that's true but many women who are not as young or as attractive as these women also don't have the luxury to mess about like this either. What are we going to do about it though? Whatever equal rights legislation can achieve can not change the reality that in terms of sexual appeal some women are always going to be more equal than others.

Contrast these leggy 'Bond Babes' with Julie Edgehill, a City dealer for a Dutch Bank in London against whom she has lost a claim for sexual discrimination. Edgehill, in her late thirties was made redundant though she had fifteen years experience. She complained of being ostracised because she was not one of the lads. Describing her isolation and the destruction of her confidence as the men turned their backs on her to talk about football, she said, "If I tried to give my point of view, it was sort of poot-pooted".

In London,  
a City broker  
complains she's  
been ostracised  
by the lads. In  
New York, Wall  
Street bankers  
have been  
accused of  
behaving like  
babes. Why  
should women  
have it both  
ways? Because,  
for far too long,  
men have had  
it all their  
own way

Edgehill's experience isn't uncommon. Over the last few years we have seen a number of cases where women suffer institutionalised discrimination and harassment. The police force and the military have been notoriously bad at managing such cases resorting often to a line of defence which assumes that because the woman in question is a sexual being, it is her own fault and that a certain level of sexual banter is harmless.

There is even a line of thought which casts men as victims who can be hauled before an industrial tribunal just because some uptight woman has taken their silly jokes and harmless flirtation seriously. We are better educated about what sexual harassment actually means, but we still find situations where powerful men defend their colleagues' behaviour when it is indefensible. If Andrew Neil at *The European* fails to fire Gerry Malone, who hit a female colleague after she refused his sexual advances, he will be sending

out a striking message about what he considers acceptable behaviour in the workplace to be.

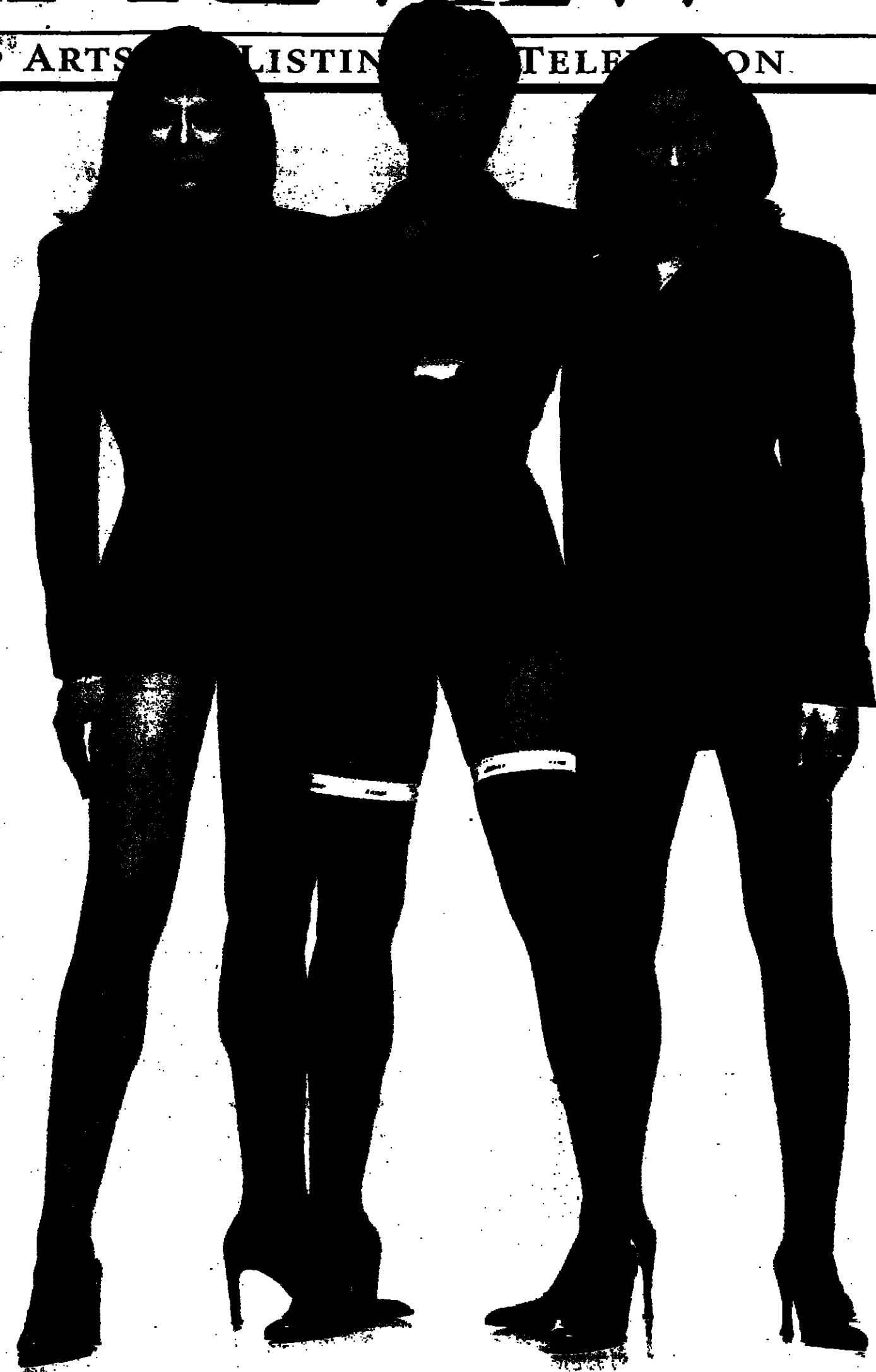
Yet we are better it seems at drawing up clear guidelines about sexual harassment than we are about sexual discrimination.

Harassment is never subtle whereas discrimination often can be. Many women complain of their exclusion from the traditional playing fields and clubs where key decisions and appointments are often made.

Yet certain facts have to be faced here. The utopian feminist ideal conjures up the workplace as neutral territory, as a sex-free zone. One wonders whether this is ever going to be likely or indeed desirable. Work is still the place where many people meet their partners, so not all sex at work constitutes sexual harassment. Even men who claim to be confused about the signals that women are sending out should know the difference between someone responding to their sexual interest and someone who hides every time they appear.

Ally McBeal has excited much interest because it is said that she actively blurs the signals. On one hand she is a successful lawyer in a thriving law firm, on the other she is neurotically vulnerable. One wonders how she wins any cases at all as most of her working life is involved in crisis management of her personal life. I cannot bear the slogan that advertises the series: "Single, successful, falling apart" as it implies that successful working women are inevitably unhappy beings who just need a good man to pull themselves together again. If the problem with most women is that they need a good seeing to, the problem with feminists or those like Ally, who hum a feminist tune without ever knowing the words, is that they need even more of a seeing to than the average woman. As reassuring as this may be to male viewers it is this, rather than Ally's short skirts, that women should worry about.

Yet what Ally McBeal highlights is simply that female sexuality is still seen as disruptive to the smooth running of the corporate world. Ally's problems stem from the fact that she has a sexual past. She appears trapped by her sexuality in a way that the male characters do not. "Get a life!" I find myself yelling at the TV. "One that doesn't involve every jerk you've ever slept with!" It is her psychological make-up that is holding her back rather than her ever moist lipstick. Would her difficulties disappear if her skirts were three-inches longer? Hardly. She is, as she



The Jockey underwear ad that shocked America, and launched the Wall Street 'Bond Babes'

says, in that horrible Americanism deeply "conflicted". Aren't we all? Would the 'Bond Babes' not be looked upon as sexually attractive women if their co-workers had never seen their legs? I don't think so somehow.

The idea then, that women's dress at work is somehow to blame for their problems is a red herring. Just as we understand rape is rape no matter what the victim is wearing, so harassment is harassment whether the woman is in a trouser suit or a summer dress. This does not mean however that we can deny the reality that male corporate costume is fundamentally boring and that even female formal dress is eroticised. Linda Grant, writing in *The Guardian* comments that "Men confirm at work, why do women

think they shouldn't have to?" Yet even women in 'sensible' suits will attract attentions. Nor does this argument take into account the liberation that women have felt in being able to dress how they want to. As fashion changes women expose far more of their bodies than ever before. Young women show their midriffs and legs not simply to gain male approval but because this is how they choose to look. Dress codes in every area of society have become more relaxed. Some feminists come on like old puritans if they think that covering up the female form will remove temptation from men and therefore make women's lives easier. This 'new Victorian' attitude casts women as temptresses and men as entirely stupid creatures unable to distinguish between un-

wanted sexual attention and mutual enjoyment. It also means that women have to disavow their sexuality if they are to be taken seriously. Yet as every woman knows even if she is not dressed up in a French Maid's outfit, she will rarely be allowed to forget the fact that she is female. Equality will only be realised when hiring and firing is based as much on female whims as it is on the peculiar rituals of male bonding.

To demand then, that women should dress how they like and that this should not interfere with their treatment at work is to demand that we have it both ways. But as men have had it entirely their own way for some time now it is only reasonable. They will have to learn to adjust. If men want to strut about the office in skimpy t-shirts and shorts,

that is fine by me. I will continue to respect them as professionals as long as they get the job done.

The creation of an artificially de-sexed environment is not the answer. Let us not recast female sexuality and success as inherently problematic when so many of the problems are caused by male sexuality within a system that takes for granted male privilege and male power. These assumptions are really what is "falling apart". I see little wrong with the 'Bond Babes' or Ally McBeal's legs. It's what they do with their brains that matters.

But to find that in ten years time that the 'Bond Babes' are no longer players and that Ally McBeal doesn't have her own law firm would surely be far more shocking than a glimpse of stocking.

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## 2/COMMENT AND LETTERS

### Teach yourself Archery

THE SECRET'S out. Now that Geri Halliwell, better known as *Bolsby Spice*, has been seen carrying a copy of M Scott Peck's *Further Along the Road Less Travelled* (The Unending Journey Towards Spiritual Growth), it has become widely known that those of us in life's fast lane invariably have our own special little book of spiritual guidance that we keep with us at all times.

So, during those rare moments of calm between board meetings, power lunches, appearances before select committees, off-the-record briefings and royal premieres, we can turn to a relevant page in our personal vade-mecum. The right meditation, insight or penance will serve to remind us of our essential ordinariness as the storms of everyday life rage around us.



**TERENCE BLACKER**  
discovers the perfect book to guide you on life's difficult journey

Each celebrity has his or her own favourite. George Michael refuses to leave home without a copy of Samuel Smiles's Victorian classic *Self-Help* in his back pocket. Alastair Campbell swears by *How to Win Friends and Influence People*. Glenn Hoddle prefers *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross: The Christian Footballer's Handbook*.

My own personal handbook - my emotional crutch, if you like - is a relatively obscure Buddhist text called *Zen and the Art of Archery* - a text which, for reasons that escape me, has recently been mailed to members of the Central Office Committee currently deliberating on who should be nominated as Conservative candidate for Mayor of London.

I'm not saying that the little pearls of advice to be found on every page of *Zen and the Art of Archery* will transform your life, merely that its quiet, profound wisdom has helped me through the various passages of my life.

A man is as big as he feels. The Archer is a small man, 5ft 2in in his stockings feet. Yet somehow, to his followers, he seems several inches taller. How does he do this? He squares his shoulders and bounces a lot. When he talks, he never allows smallness to play a part in his sentences. If he is to write a book, he will explain how it must go through 23 drafts.

The man who looks back will never reach his destination. When the Archer was a sprinter, breaking several world records and once beating a cheetah in an 80-yard dash across the savannah in Kenya, he had one simple training principle. Never look back. If you look back while sprinting, you will invariably fall over. In the race of life, those who look back, dwelling in an entirely negative, unhelpful and frankly nit-picking way on things that may (or may not) have happened in the past, are losers and has-beens.

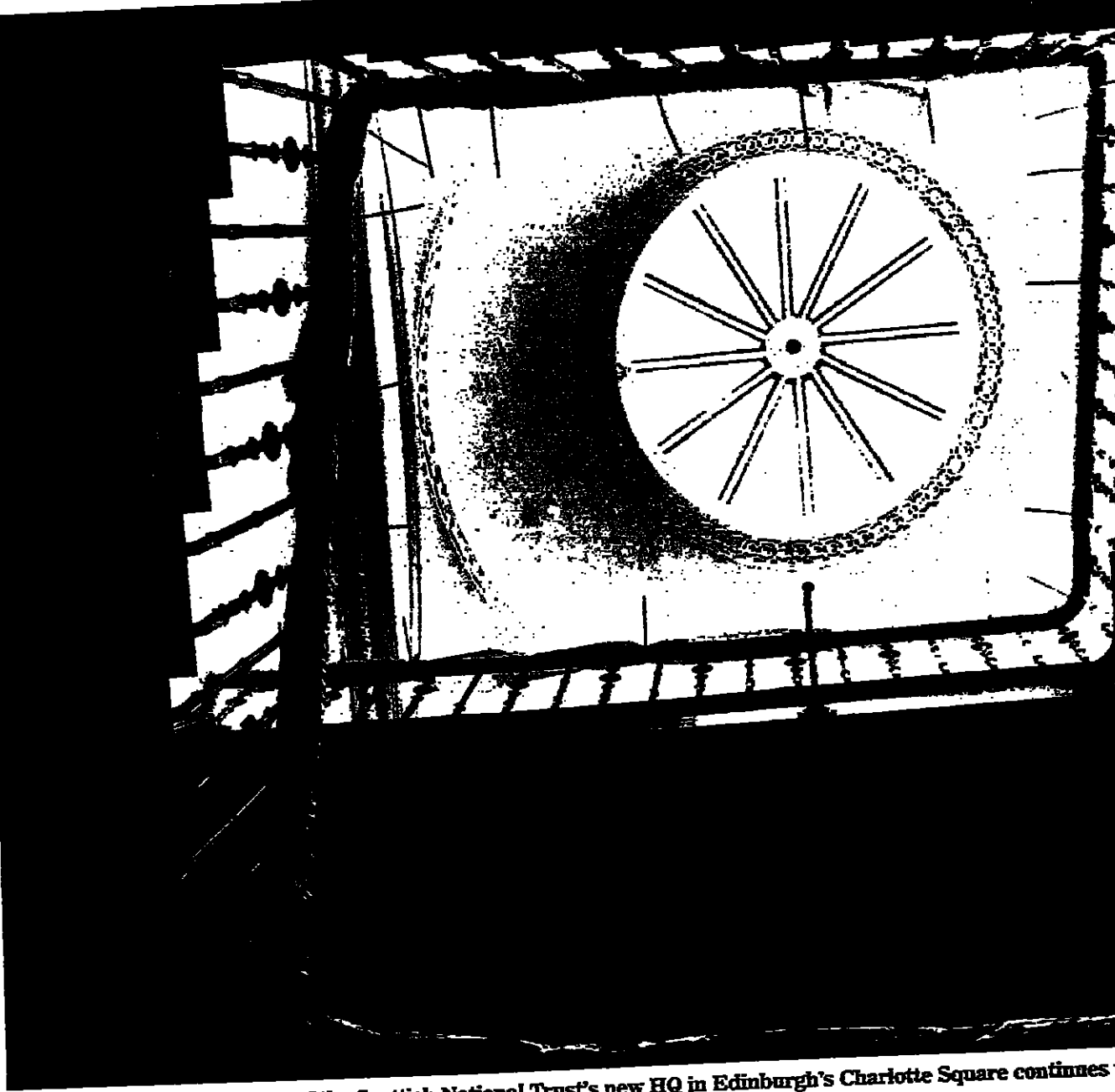
Not so long ago, the Archer's godson Linford Christie was transformed from a county-level plodder into the fastest man on earth. How? By never looking back.

There is no such thing as middle. Although the Archer thinks big, talks big, is big, he will always find time for small people. When he goes walk-about in London, where, by the way, he's fantastically popular, ordinary folk will hail him as he passes by, saying "Oraight there, Arch, me ole mate, me ole cock sparrer? Don't you worry about the toffs givin' ya grief. We all love ya, mate. You're one of us, you are."

It is the middle people - chippy backbench MPs, envious journalists, whingeing, nay-saying, chattering-class liberals - whom the Archer ignores. When they ask him a question he does not like, he looks through them or over their heads. They do not exist for him, and therefore they do not exist.

The truth that a man feels in his heart is the only truth that matters. Shortly after the Archer had turned down a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition for his largely unsung work alleviating famine, removing the nuclear threat and comforting little orphans all over the world, he told his best friend Nelson Mandela that the secret of his success was, above all, to tell the truth as he saw it. Then he returned to his work replacing the ozone layer.

Miles Kingston returns next week.



Our series on the restoration of the Scottish National Trust's new HQ in Edinburgh's Charlotte Square continues with a view of the cupola and staircase. Tom Pilon

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### School action zones

Sir: Most of the so-called initiatives which are proposed for education action zones ("Minister vows to shake up schools", 24 June), have been happening as a matter of course in my comprehensive school for some time.

We regularly organise special arts and sports events, we run homework clubs, staff have professional development, we run the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and have student mentors for the prevention of bullying.

We, like many other schools, have lost staffing and gained larger groups because we work in a county whose funding has been substantially lower than comparable counties through an unfathomable method of assessing financial need.

I suggest that Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, would do well to "present a fundamental challenge" to an unfair method of allocating funding which is doing far more to hold back the education system in Cambridgeshire than the "vested interests" he mysteriously mentions.

Along with many of my colleagues I rarely leave school before 6.30pm and often go in at weekends and in the holidays. We would be happy to have the opportunity to negotiate our pay and conditions, especially if Mr Byers could see his way to returning to us those negotiating rights. CAROLYN COOKE, Teacher/Governor, Impington Village College, Somersham, Cambridgeshire

Sir: On the back of a torrent of government "educational initiatives" which includes a revised National Curriculum, a Year of Reading, literacy hours, literacy hotlines, summer schools and Saturday classes we are now to have "action zones". Is David Blunkett not aware that we are at the bottom of the European literacy league table because the liberal Sixties spawned a host of "educational initiatives", foisted on us by a generation of whizz-kid advisers who rose to stardom on the basis of a range of expensive, untried and unproven initiatives.

The solution to the problems of education is a well-trained, well-paid teaching force which can attract the best candidates and government which stays out of the classroom. EDWARD CARRON, Condonover, Shropshire

### Hatred for gays

Sir: Your interviews with teenagers about the gay age of consent (23 June) left me deeply depressed. One was not surprised to hear the predictable views on homosexuality of some senior members of the Upper House during these last few days, but I was dismayed to hear that most of the students interviewed felt negative towards gays and described homosexuality as a "lifestyle".

This article was a clear indication of how affective Clause 28 has been. Whole generations of young people seem to be growing up ignorant of the fact that one does not choose one's sexuality. Hussain Kahn, aged

18, who states that he does not agree with homosexuality; would I am sure be appalled to hear that someone might, on the same basis, disapprove of his race and colour.

Having spent all my working life promoting equality for all, and acting always against racist and discriminatory practices, I feel so sad when one minority displays such disregard for another.

Last Saturday, in broad daylight, while shopping in the Chiswick High Road with my partner, we were loudly abused by a young black man as "perverts", without any provocation whatsoever. Perhaps we should be grateful that we were not physically attacked - simply for being.

Have I wasted my time trying to help create a fairer Britain which does not exclude so many of its own people, only to be rejected for being gay? I despair. MILAN SVANDERLIK, London W4

Sir: When attempting to gauge the voice of Teenage Britain about the gay age of consent, you might have widened your net a little. Your representative speakers all happened to be BTec business and finance students at a North London college. Had you bothered to ask a broader cross-section, including those studying English, art music or drama, you might have found a Teenage Britain that is less rabidly homophobic. MICHAEL STEVENS, Warley, West Midlands

Sir: Continuing campaigns for homosexual equality need to follow through consistently on what was gained by the Commons vote on 22 June, which was essentially about the legality of physical sex. It affected gay men, exposing the inequality that still exists between them and homosexual women, for whom there is no legal "age of consent". Two ways forward seem clear.

Either there will be, for the first time in English law, a legally enforceable law of lesbian consent. Or there will be no legal constraint on homosexual practice at any age by either gender. The latter might seem to campaigners the more attractive. After all, if it is harmful to criminalise sexual acts by people over 16, how can it be right to criminalise such acts by younger people? And if this is the case with homosexual acts, it can hardly be different for heterosexual acts.

On the day following the Commons vote, the UN published world figures for HIV infection. They showed that, against a background of general increase in the developing world, two African countries had recorded falls in new infections. These were attributed to programmes of sex education emphasising postponement of sexual intercourse and confinement of physical relationships to one partner. What signal, by comparison, has the Westminster Parliament sent out?

RICHARD WILKINS, General Secretary, Association of Christian Teachers, St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: I hope that the forthcoming House of Lords vote on the age of consent will not be made the excuse for another campaign of hatred against the hereditary peers ("Persecuted gays", Letters, 24 June). I trust my fellow peers (of all sorts) enough to believe that they will listen to the arguments and take no final decision until they have done so. Meanwhile, we should not be condemned for what we have not yet done. Hereditary peers as well as gays have the right to claim that we should not be victims of discrimination. EARL RUSSELL, Liberal Democrat Social Security spokesman, House of Lords

### British Library fees

Sir: It is not unfair to ask academics like myself to defray the expenses of the new British Library ("Fee plan for new library", 23 June). However the plan is short-sighted.

It is "penny wise, pound foolish" to invest heavily in a world-class institution and then adopt policies that will reduce usage. Only about one third of the seats are currently being used and fees will reduce the number of users.

The policy will bring some pounds to the library but will deter some foreign scholars who spend considerable sums while residing in London; to reduce the number hardly helps the balance of payments. Although for established academics the proposed fees are manageable, they will be a significant deterrent to postgraduate students and younger scholars, British and foreign.

Most sadly, the plan undercuts a long and honourable tradition that has made the British Library a mecca for scholars from around the world. What a shame to undercut that reputation and reduce the Library's influence just as the Queen opens the splendid new facility. The fees may be fair, but are they wise? Professor W BRUCE LESLIE, History Department, State University of New York at Brockport, Brockport, New York, USA

### Ungrateful Saddam

Sir: With reference to the correspondence (Letters, 20, 22 June) prompted by Felicity Arbuthnot's article "Baghdad Stories", it is a fact that whatever the international community do, Saddam Hussein will find ways to use the Iraqi people as a pawn in his deadly game.

The Kuwait Red Crescent Society announced on 23 May its intention to take humanitarian aid inside Iraq. The aid was to be distributed directly to the Iraqi people by Kuwaiti volunteers because it was feared that if the aid was simply handed to the Iraqi authorities, it would go to the regime's cronies rather than those most in need.

On 27 May the head of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, Mr Aloush, said that Iraq would welcome the Kuwait Red Crescent Society into Iraq, adding: "We have accepted aid from humanitarian agencies and

from the Red Crescent Societies of many countries."

Saddam Hussein evidently became worried by such "people to people contact", which moreover bypassed him. Reverting to type, on 6 June he issued an order banning forthwith "all items listed under the title 'humanitarian aid'" from abroad. What further evidence does one need to prove that it is Saddam Hussein who is responsible for the horrendous suffering of the Iraqi people? Dr SAAD AL-AJMI, Director, Kuwait Information Centre, Embassy of the State of Kuwait, London SW7

### God or the fairies

Sir: What a dreary letter from Maurice Hill ("Fairy stories", 24 June). Apart from his elementary error of confusing religious beliefs with fairies and Father Christmas, he seems unaware that while there is no irrefutable proof of the existence of God, neither is there any final proof of his absence. At the end of the day we have to look at the balance of evidence and make our own choice.

Unfortunately for Mr Hill, the vast majority of the human race throughout history has chosen to accept that the divine dimension is indeed part of reality - and no rationalist or atheistic regime has ever been able to change that. Canon ROGER CLIFTON, Corsham, Wiltshire

### Worry about jobs

Sir: Job insecurity is not "mostly in the mind", despite the fact that the average length of stay in any one job has changed little over the past decade ("Jobs are more secure than people think", 22 June).

Firstly, a greater proportion of those leaving jobs now compared with a decade ago do so through redundancy rather than of their own volition. Secondly, the proportion of the labour force classified as employees continues to decline, and the self-employed and those on temporary contracts who have taken their place are likely to experience much greater job insecurity than those employed directly by an employer. NIGEL WILKINS, London SW7

### Market pitfalls

Sir: The article about commodity trading by Stefan Bernstein (24 June) is potentially dangerous for small private investors.

First, anyone approaching Life with the aim of trading crude oil would risk open derision, given that the only exchange trading trade oil futures in Europe is the International Petroleum Exchange. If this did not deter the small investor, the second shock might be finding out about the sums of money involved. The author uses a value of £100 a contract as an example. This figure is misleading. In fact at current oil prices, a single deal would be worth \$14,000.

Third, the author gives examples of information that a small investor

might have in order to predict future prices. It is hardly likely that many, if any, private individuals would have inside knowledge about - using his example - huge oil deposits in Antarctica before the rest of the marketplace. The oil market is very open and rumours of big finds are normally common knowledge among all the participants.

The energy futures market is a highly professional industry. The people involved are highly skilled and experienced. While not wishing to put off private investors, I would advise caution and some in-depth research before plunging into the market. SEANA LAMIGAN, Assistant Vice-President, Market Services, International Petroleum Exchange, London E1

### No conflict

Sir: I am glad to see that in your report of 24 June you do not deny my statement that there is no conflict of interest between the statements I make as shadow President of the Board of Trade and the non-executive directorship I hold of Murray Financial plc. You are doubtless aware that I did register this interest, which is unconnected with my parliamentary duties. I therefore found your decision to place an article on the front page rather surprising. JOHN REDWOOD MP (Wokingham, C), London SW1

### IN BRIEF

Sir: So far I have not seen a mention of reintroducing National Service as a means of dealing with so-called soccer hooliganism in your reader's suggestions. In my day, two years in a uniform was considered the only effective way of dealing with the many problems relating to young men growing up, especially those who used violence in the process. I should add that I do not myself advocate such a measure but I feel your correspondence on the matter is incomplete without it. BARRY FANTONI, London SW4

Sir: Your report on Bill Gates's investment in Cliveden plc (19 June) mentioned that the Cliveden estate is owned by the National Trust. The whole property continues to be open to the public, and under the terms of the lease to the hotel access to part of the house is guaranteed. Changes in the ownership of Cliveden plc shares, which are bound to occur from time to time, will not effect these arrangements. CARL SHILLITO, Property Manager, Cliveden Estate, Taplow, Buckinghamshire

Sir: May I answer the question posed to Mr Frank Fraser by J Swainston concerning the number of beans in a bottle (You ask the Questions, 24 June)? After 59 seconds the bottle would be half full and contain approximately 376 thousand million tons of one-gramme beans. P MARCHESE, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

## WIN A VIP DAY OUT AT WIMBLEDON FOR LADIES QUARTER FINAL DAY

The Independent and Robinsons, the Official Soft Drink of Wimbledon, are offering readers the opportunity to attend this year's Wimbledon by giving you the chance to win a set of four exclusive hospitality tickets.

Robinsons drinks have been served at Wimbledon since 1934 and you can enjoy the hospitality of a company whose name has become synonymous with this prestigious tournament.

The winner and three friends or family members will enjoy a great day of Centre Court action on Tuesday 30th June, with full VIP hospitality. Throughout the day you will be treated to a champagne reception, four course silver service lunch, afternoon tea and a complimentary bar.

This promotion is officially endorsed by The All England Tennis Club.

To enter the competition just dial the number below, answer the following question leaving your name, address and telephone number:

Q: - Which female tennis player has won the most Wimbledon titles?

- a) Billy Jean King
- b) Martina Navratilova
- c) Margaret Court

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## Shed few tears if our coal industry dies out

NOW THAT you can get your gas from the electricity company, and electricity from the water company, the Conservative reforms of the energy market are truly filtering through to the consumer. Meanwhile, at the other end of the energy chain, it seems that the realities of the free market have finally got through to the coal industry – and as a result the obituaries are being prepared.

It is tempting, then, to see Margaret Beckett's "rescue package" for coal as a sentimental piece of Old Labour atavism, in which the Prime Minister's free-market instincts were forced to compromise with the party's instinct to protect coalminers' jobs. There is some truth in that, but only some. The ideal of a "free market" in energy has proved as elusive as Christianity or communism – always approximated to, never perfected, and with the route hotly disputed.

At the heart of the problem is the route to a free market chosen by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator. Because the generating industry was privatised as a duopoly between National Power and PowerGen, he sought to encourage new producers to enter the market. This has cut the market share of the two dominant players, but has had the perverse effect in the meantime of encouraging the "dash to gas", because newcomers can build new gas power stations more cheaply than coal-fired plants.

In the past five years, the share of electricity generated by gas has leapt from nothing to one-third, while coal's share has dropped from two-thirds to one-third. But, because the emphasis has been on encouraging new entrants rather than cutting prices, prices are still higher than they should be.

Then there is the peculiar system of pricing electricity, a combination of daily auction (including, bizarrely, some electricity priced at zero) and long-term contracts. Mrs Beckett yesterday promised reform, and in effect argued that, because it would take time to achieve a level playing field – the next stage in the approximation to a truly competitive free market – the coal industry should continue to be protected for an unspecified period.

This is where the Government's argument becomes confused. She said that planning permission for new gas power stations would be restricted, on grounds of "energy policy concerns relating to diversity and security". These are old-fashioned arguments.

Diversity of supply is a minor consideration. Obviously,



it would be better not to destroy the coal industry if it turns out that it could have competed in a fair free market. But there is no point keeping an over-priced coal industry afloat just for the sake of "diversity". And "security" is irrelevant. The idea of safeguarding a long-term indigenous energy supply only matters if we are contemplating a war in Europe at some point in the next quarter-century. No one, for example, can argue that Japan has been held back by having to import almost all its energy.

The only test that matters for the coal industry is whether it can survive in the closest to a free market that can be achieved, and the only test for Mrs Beckett's proposals is to what extent they remove the factors which currently distort the energy market.

Of course, there are wider costs which need to be taken into account, but they by no means all favour coal over other sources of energy. Closing pits plunges whole towns into poverty – and the concentrated loss of jobs is a drain on the taxpayer. But coal is a dirty, dangerous fuel, imposing costs which are difficult to price in monetary terms on our environment and on the lives of miners, two of whom died in a pit collapse only last month.

Mrs Beckett's success in removing market distortions cannot be judged, because all she did was promise a further review. But whenever this much-postponed goal is achieved, we shall find out if the coal industry really is competitive, and should not grieve too much if it is not.

## Our responsibility towards Nigeria

AFTER YEARS of Britain shirking its responsibilities towards Nigeria, let us welcome good news all round. The heart attack suffered by the dreadful dictator General Abacha two weeks ago offers a glimmer of hope. Tony Blair has seized the moment by getting on the telephone to the military boss left minding the shop (temporarily, we hope), General Abdulsalam Abubakar, on Tuesday and despatching junior minister Tony Lloyd to Lagos today. It is the right moment to exert leverage, just as the world is enjoying the spectacle of Nigeria's football team in France.

Britain's ties with its former colony do not have as much purchase as they once did, but as Nigeria sank ever deeper into despotism and corruption, the chance to use what little hold we had was never fully pressed home. The sanctions imposed on Nigeria always fell short of affecting the one commodity which actually mattered, namely oil, while Nigeria's knuckle-rapping "suspension" from the Commonwealth was never turned into full-blooded expulsion.

The arguments over sanctions are always difficult, because corrupt, rich elites tend not to suffer from them. And Nigeria has in recent years been ruled by one of the most corrupt, rich elites in the world, impervious to the plight of their country's ordinary people. But, while Abacha was around, the British government should have been at the forefront of attempts to increase the Nigerian regime's isolation – perhaps by such symbolic measures as excluding the Nigerian team from the Olympic Games and the World Cup.

Now, however, Nigeria has a chance to fulfil its potential as one of the leading powers of Africa, being blessed with natural resources and a rich history. Britain must do all it can to help the country towards this goal and to make up for lost time: Mr Lloyd carries a heavy responsibility on his shoulders today.

## Oh, what a waste

AH, WELL. We tried. We posted our bottles in the bottle bank. We bundled our newspapers for recycling. And now it turns out they are not wanted. The bottom has fallen out of the waste-paper market. It just goes to show that good intentions are not enough. Good intentions cannot over-ride market forces, which is why the best environmental solutions are those which use market mechanisms. The best incentives to recycling and efficient use of resources are green taxes – such as, for example, a tax on un-recycled paper.

# Has Rupert Murdoch just torpedoed the Tory party?

MAYBE IT was just a circulation building stunt. Maybe it owed more to the paper's hunger – richly satisfied – for some short term free publicity than to a considered attempt by Rupert Murdoch to destabilise the Blair government's European policy. Maybe it won't last for ever.

Ministers who have exchanged views in the last 48 hours with the paper's editorial high command on its new anti-EMU campaign, advance each of these propositions at different times. In their optimistic scenario, Murdoch will allow the newspaper to continue fighting against the Euro only up to the moment he thinks he has lost the argument. And then, just as he finally followed his readers – not the other way round, remember – into supporting Labour, so he will back down on EMU.

Maybe, I suspect, this underestimates the determination of the News International economic guru, Irwin Stelzner, and the paper's political editor, Trevor Kavanagh, let alone that of Murdoch himself. Nevertheless, almost any reaction to *The Sun's* resumption of its self-appointed role as arbiter of what the Blair government can or can't do, is better than panic. If you think it is all-powerful, try asking those who ran the Tory campaign in 1992 whether they think it was *The Sun* "won't win it". They don't. And because it is so up-front – some might say indiscreetly so – it is at least, as hostile press coverage goes, less insidious than the slavish and wilfully uncritical attention the once loyal *Daily Record* has been mysteriously lavishing on Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National Party, this week.

It is, nevertheless, a well-timed reminder of the forces Blair has to overcome, if and when he asks the country to back entry into a single currency. Of these, the most formidable, unfashionable as it is to say so, remains not *The Sun* but the Conservative Party, which has 164 more MPs than any newspaper.

This week, the new Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, made a speech laying out his economic arguments against EMU in impressive detail. Maude's speech repays reading as much for what it doesn't say as what it does. It doesn't, as William Hague's Fontainebleau speech did, waste time conjuring the demon of EMU as the terminator of the British nation state. Instead, says Maude, we Tories are the true pragmatists. We want to wait – admittedly for a very long time – to see whether EMU works. It is a speech – while adamantly opposed to EMU – which nevertheless seeks to leave a route open to some form of post-EMU future for the Tory party, and perhaps, just as importantly, for Maude himself.

What Maude also doesn't do, however, is to extricate his party from its commitment to oppose EMU entry in the next parliament. Since that is overwhelmingly the likeliest period for Tony Blair to hold a referendum on the subject, it simply confirms that the Tory party will stake almost all its hopes for recovery, assuming that it does not actually win the next election, on a victory in a referendum on the Euro after that. It's easy to dismiss that as no threat to Blair at all. Is even a slightly bigger Tory party, Sun or no Sun, any match for the combined



DONALD MACINTYRE  
'The Sun' may have performed a service to the centre left by terminally weakening the Tories

forces of a Blair Cabinet, the CBI, the TUC and most of industry? But I doubt whether Blair will work on that assumption, if and when the campaign begins. The argument that he just won't have a referendum unless he's sure of winning sounds persuasive. But it's just possible that economic circumstances – say the volatility of sterling or a business clamour about being left out of the deepening single market – will force him to do just that. And there will, of course, be equal television coverage for both sides.

Which is where the apparently separate issue of electoral reform, and its link to EMU, comes in. It is now highly likely that Hague will get through the Euro-elections next year without the split that once seemed inevitable. The selections of Euro-candidates was entirely satisfactory for Hague. The candidates include many

of the incumbent pro-European Tory MEPs. But to get selected they either supported, or at least equivocated about, Hague's opposition to the single currency. The result will be that he has a clear hand in framing an anti-EMU manifesto. (Two incumbents that bravely restated their firm support for EMU, John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly, were dumped.) It's just possible that a few firmly pro-EMU Tories might chance their arm, under the banner, say of Edwina Currie, by standing as independents. But the big beasts, like Kenneth Clarke, are very unlikely to give them backing.

At this stage, but a lot could change if there is a referendum vote in favour of any form of proportional representation for the Commons before the next election. Clarke, as it happens, is in favour of the first past the post system, and will campaign for it. But that doesn't mean that he wouldn't see the opportunity afforded by a new electoral system if the British people voted for one. It becomes much more likely that, at odds with the Tory leadership on the one issue which he regards more fundamental than any other, and with the prospect of serious money from business for a new pro-European right of centre party, he would consider forming one, made viable for the first time by the existence of a proportional electoral system.

The big men of Tory pro-Europeanism, not just Clarke but Heath, Howe and Reselme, would not, of course, need a new party to campaign vigorously for EMU in a referendum. But some of their supporters,

considering whether to risk their political careers by opposing the party line, might well need to feel they had somewhere to go. Unlike the SDP in 1981, they might well take the party's financial backers with them. Such a split, moreover, would guarantee the future prospect of a Commons with a permanent, built-in pro-European majority, because it would rob, with devastating consequences, the possibility of a right wing anti-European Conservative Party again winning power. And that in itself could well help to create the market momentum towards EMU entry. It may not be true as some in the City are saying, that the market reaction to a vote for PR will be to sell sterling. But it would go a long way to satisfy the markets that an EMU referendum is winnable.

Both EMU entry and electoral reform thus become part of the same picture of recasting, long term, the British political map. But it may also be that electoral reform becomes a desirable, possibly an even essential, component of a successful EMU referendum. The prospects, in the long run, of a Tory split have been made, perhaps, just a shade likelier by the new campaign started by *The Sun*, simply for the reason that it will make Hague even less inclined than he already is to appease the pro-Europeans like Clarke. It would be ironic if *The Sun*, after all, has performed its greatest service to the centre left by helping terminally to weaken the Conservatives, the one party bent on delivering what Rupert Murdoch and *The Sun* want.

Podium, page 4

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I will never profit from Diana's death"  
Earl Spencer

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A truth which is clearly understood can no longer be written with sincerity"  
Marcel Proust, French author

## India for Free (you'll pay for it!)

So you think you like a challenge?

How about cycling for five days in Rajasthan to the Taj Mahal in March '99?

You'll have to cover 340km, off the beaten track, on mountain bikes in the blistering sun.

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USA Today Support for the company already seems to be of two minds. A New York Times/CBS News poll reported last week found great admiration for Gates and his company. But most Americans also agree that the Justice Department should continue its Microsoft investigation. The real danger for Microsoft is that admiration for the company's amazing success may turn to disgust over the lengths to which it would go to preserve it. Microsoft this week released its new Windows 98 OS to the

nation's retail shelves – bundled Internet Explorer and all. It's a commercial victory for the beleaguered company. But it may be a Pyrrhic one.

New York Times For all the dust kicked up in the legal battle over Microsoft Corporation's right to include Web browsing software in its Windows 98 operating system, a ruling by a US appeals court this week in the software giant's favour is likely to have little impact on the imminent release of Windows 98, a new

## MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
The US appeal court's verdict on Microsoft



version that integrates the browser even more tightly. What the dispute has managed to do is to focus attention on a product that has played to widespread yawns in computer industry publications. In recent

weeks, even Microsoft has been playing down revenue expectations for Windows 98.

Financial Times The US Court of Appeal in Washington has dealt a poten-

tially devastating blow to the antitrust case against Microsoft. The ruling highlights the drawbacks of a suit focused closely on the rivalry between Microsoft and its browser rival, Netscape Communications. This exposes the justice department both to judicial hazards and to public scepticism. The case may yet recover from both of these problems. But it will not be easy.

Salon Magazine (Internet) Even if the Justice Department doesn't appeal this

ruling and focuses its efforts on the new suit, the questions asked are not going to disappear. And everyone concerned about how Microsoft uses its extraordinary power in the software marketplace ought to keep asking them. Sure, the government should tread carefully when intervening in the treacherously complex and fast-shifting technology marketplace. Recklessness is inappropriate. But its opposite doesn't serve the public very well, either.



# A fine monument to bad taste

This is not legally possible. The Treaty of Rome, the Single European Act, and Maastricht guarantee our access to the single market.

Labour is attracted to EMU for political reasons: it believes it would make it look modern, to show it has shaken off its socialist past. It is happy to display sophisticated contempt for any expression of nationalism. If Britain shoe-horns itself into EMU, it is our businessmen who stand to pay the price.



هكذا من الأصل

# Can Sky save this stricken sport?



**DEREK PRINGLE**

*Since soccer became sexy, cricket, once football's closest relative, found itself looking like a dowdy aunt*

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to remove all cricket from the protected list of television events will be seen with mixed emotions.

For the good burghers at the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), the news means the chance to finally get TV to pay a fair market price for their product.

For others, the move will be grave confirmation of cricket's diminished status and a final cutting of its ties with amateur ethos, still widely upheld within clubs like the MCC.

The lengthy delay, despite the proposals of Lord Gordon's Advisory Group in March, show what a potentially unpopular decision, Chris Smith, the Secretary of State felt delisting cricket to be.

As a sport, cricket is followed largely through the media, of which the BBC's coverage is a large chunk and it has no doubt taken some fierce and persistent lobbying to have it removed.

And yet the move, however unpopular is probably a necessary one. As a game struggling to make itself heard above the hip clamour of football, cricket's future has long been a cause for concern, particularly with regard to the young, whose leisure time is now more lenaciously competed for than at any other time in history.

Money, never thought to have been a problem since the Seventies, has only really become an issue in cricket since football's finances headed for the stars, or at least the Murdoch satellite that orbited them. Suddenly, with money to burn and marketing men happy to light the bonfire, football's image became very sexy, succeeding even in catching the eye of those who had previously given it little more than a passing glance.

Naturally, other sports became envious and cricket, once football's closest relative, suddenly found itself becoming a dowdy aunt. Without colossi, like Ian Botham, David Gower and Graham Gooch, to seduce both young and old, its appeal has perceptibly dwindled.

What's more, its purse, while remaining full enough to keep an antiquated and impoverished county system ticking over, did not contain the means to invest - at least in any sustainable way - in its future.



A typical English cricket scene, with few spectators and hundreds of empty seats

Which is why Lord MacLaurin and his colleagues at the ECB, have lobbied hard to get cricket removed from the A list of protected events and placed on the B list, which means that only some form of highlights package need be shown on terrestrial TV.

The ECB have long griped about the monopoly terrestrial TV, in this case the BBC, have had over cricket, particularly home Test matches. Listed along with such "cherries" in the sporting calendar as the Grand National, the FA Cup final and the Derby Test matches, along with the Natwest final and including highlights packages of one-day internationals and the Benson and Hedges Cup (both with Sky) cost the BBC about £35m over four years.

Considering this fills approximately seven hours' screen time for anything up to 25 days a summer - as compared to 90 minutes at Wembley or two and half minutes at Epsom - it is cheap TV, something the ECB are hoping will no longer

be the case, now that SKY are allowed to sit round the negotiating table.

But if there are those who have misgivings about another major sport selling out to satellite TV when the rights come up for grabs at the end of the year, the prognosis is not all bad.

For one thing, the ECB have long claimed that the highest bid will not necessarily win the TV rights and that theirs will be a responsible decision. With only six and a half million households having access to Sky, spreading the word, will be achieved by single letters alone.

Lord MacLaurin's claim that they "must get the balance right between audience and revenue, so we can get the best deal for development of cricket and the widest access of viewers," is one that has long emanated from Lord's. The practicalities of such a deal, however, may prove more elusive.

The ideal balancing act, would be to maximise both exposure and revenue, though that would proba-

bly mean the BBC paying Sky prices.

Of course, now that Sky have a critical viewing mass and no longer need to pay through the nose for events, it could all fall flat, as would any whiff of them merely being used as a stalking horse to bid up the BBC.

What worries many is that the extra money will be frittered away, as it has to some extent in football, on escalating wage packets for players. While cricketers still trail the remainder of the professional sporting world, salaries at least for the best players, have improved substantially over the last few years.

A capped county player, on less than £25,000 a few years ago, can now earn up to £45,000, while those included on a regular basis for England, can earn in excess of £100,000 a year. But while there is no doubt that an increase in salaries will help attract those talented players in two minds over a career, anything approaching the inflation that has hit football would cripple cricket.

With substantial investment already required in supporting cricket's sagging domestic infrastructure, the ECB has promised to invest most of the extra money towards enticing and improving the young. Schemes such as building a more comprehensive coaching programme, while boosting educational initiatives by supporting schools, are apparently just some of the ways in which the extra money will be spent.

Women's cricket, a growth area, as well as greater support for county clubs in becoming centres of excellence, are other areas to which the revenue will be put. Getting Labour to take cricket off the A-list has probably cost something and the absence of an Australian style academy, funded by Lottery money, is no closer to fruition than it was under the cricket-loving Conservatives.

In general, delisting probably has more positives than negatives, though mismanagement of funds must be closely guarded against.

While there will always be those who will have sleepless nights over the potential loss of institutions such as Richie Benaud, there is a greater need for cricket to address its future. Breaking these shackles, cricket may at last be able to face its future rather than live up to its past, something it has been accountable to for far too long.

Among the triumphalists celebrating the Government's decision, no one will be more relieved than the chairman of the ECB himself, Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth. Brought in 18 months ago, ostensibly to modernise the county structure as well as that of the ECB, MacLaurin, has achieved little other than to increase the number of people wearing ECB blazers.

Now those blazers will have some funds to work with, the pressure for English cricket to start performing is on. From now on, providing television does stump up the extra cash, no more excuses will be permitted.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

RICHARD TILT



The head of the Prison Service responds to Andreas Whittam Smith's attack on UK jails

ANDREAS WHITTAM Smith's criticisms of the Prison Service are ill-informed and outdated. Great improvements in conditions have been made over the past few years despite an increasing prison population.

The suggestion that prisoners are still required to "slop out" is simply not true. The practice of slopping out was degrading and that is why it was ended in 1996 when the programme of providing integrated sanitation in cells was completed.

Where in-cell sanitation is not provided prisoners have 24 hour access to toilet facilities. We have not held three prisoners in a cell designed for one since 1994. The use of police cells was eliminated in 1995.

To suggest that prison officers "deny the humanity of the people in their care" is offensive to my staff, who provide a supportive regime for prisoners. The job is highly pressurised, and sometimes dangerous, and it is unfair to underestimate the efforts made by officers to provide a constructive environment.

The assertion that the Prison Service is aware of drug-smuggling techniques used by prisoners and their visitors yet does nothing to stop this is unfair. The Prison Service operates a very active anti-drugs policy, concentrating on security, treatment and education. This has led to a steady decline in the rate of positive test results.

The presence of drugs in our prisons can lead to health problems, debt and bullying, and as a result we are committed to tackling the problem. Those found to be abusing drugs can be given additional imprisonment, have to receive their visitors behind screens, and lose other privileges.

I would like to invite Mr Whittam Smith to visit a prison. I would be delighted to accompany him.

## Judicious verdict on courtroom drama

IT WAS a breathtaking moment in an extraordinary trial. O J Simpson stood before a world-wide audience solemnly taking the exhibit in his iron fist. The tedious hours broadcast live from court were forgotten in seconds as he put on the glove: "It doesn't fit!"

American lawyers practise their televised appearances. The sessions are choreographed, the moves rehearsed. No longer is the jury their only audience. The case reminded us that in Britain, the theatre of the court remains discrete. Big moments in complex trials are reduced to sound-bites illustrated by pastel sketches. Juries still occupy a hidden world.

Picked from their daily lives, jurors are thrown in at the deep end of an often fiercely adversarial process with no tutoring and minimal information. All that unites a jury is its chance selection. It is unquestionably intimidating, but remains the cornerstone of our judicial system.

In *The Jurymen's Tale*, Trevor Grove responds to the call of duty, the citizen becomes the juror. Entering the "solid, dignified and slightly ludicrous" physical world of the Old Bailey, his observation of its social scene captures the imagination. The apprehension of first-time jurors is transparent as he describes the ebb and flow of the jury restaurant, counting the distribution of newspapers, making assumptions about age, class and dress codes.

Soon he is immersed in a gripping and unusual case. It lasts 64 days, fusing high drama and deep sadness with low farce and confusion. A Greek shipping magnate has been kidnapped and held to ransom by two compatriots, minded by two Frenchmen who later maintain their right to silence. A seemingly straightforward prosecution: a cruel imprisonment for nine days in a "pitch-dark, windowless room not much larger than a cupboard, reeking of urine".

## FRIDAY BOOK

THE JURYMEN'S TALE  
BY TREVOR GROVE. BLOOMSBURY, £11.99

The case appears cut-and-dried. But the defence argues that the victim was "in" on his own kidnapping. They allege that, with massive gambling debts, he stage-managed the event to extort money from his family.

Much hinges on stories of wealth and lifestyle that stagger the jury. Evidence from the victim's family presses home the significance of family solidarity in Greek culture. Then the key defendant sacks his barrister to defend himself.

Grove recounts the whole process with precision, good humour and studied reflection. He was no ordinary juror. He took copious notes, writing up the case each evening.

Some of the best moments are in the passages derived from these

notes. One minute is mundane and trivial, the next incisive and engaging. In their breaks the jurors muse over the lottery, the cost of the trial and the sighting of Mike Gelling in the jury restaurant. In the same breath comes a shrewd assessment of the case: the types of kidnapping equipment, or the reliability of witnesses.

The jury soon develops its own "code of behaviour", profoundly serious yet swapping jokes. Camaraderie, like the case, becomes part of their lives. Over Christmas, Grove misses his new companions and does "homework" on the jury system. His research instils the text with broader references that contextualise the process.

Following the closing speeches

and the summing-up, the expectant reader draws up a chair in the jury room. Alas, Grove must disappoint. Unable to reveal the content of the deliberation, he sends the reader packing. As jury foreman, he is proud to disclose that they rejected a "verdict-driven deliberation". Rather than taking an early vote on guilt, they opted for an "evidence-based deliberation", encouraging open discussion. After four working days and a weekend, the votes were taken one by one: unanimity on all counts. "We sat back in silence, overawed by what had just occurred. Then the tension suddenly ebbed." How well he conveys that tension.

For Trevor Grove, the jury delivered. It is an "admirable idea" which will only continue to work "so long as we have faith in it".

Not so for detractors. Having established the "view from the inside", he seeks out the jury's enemies and sympathisers. Now the professional journalist, he lines up the usual suspects: Devlin, Poplewell, Blom-Cooper, Runciman, Zander, Tumin and so on.



The Old Bailey: a solid, dignified and slightly ludicrous world

The detractors are severe. Juries are amateurish, ignorant and non-accountable. Judges are professional, reliable and accountable.

Important here is the distinction between judges as summarisers and as decision-makers. Would they become case-hardened? Concerns abound over the distance between judges and those they would judge.

Grove presents a shopping-list for "modest" reform that includes exemptions, voluntary jurors, age qualification, peremptory challenges, juror education and the 13th, or reserve, juror. He also covers note-taking, questions, instructions and legal jargon. Much of this has been discussed before, but the shared experience of a difficult case widens and makes accessible a crucial debate.

PHIL SCRATON

The reviewer is director of the Centre for Studies in Crime and Social Justice and author of the forthcoming book 'Hillsborough: The Truth'.

## FRIDAY POEM

LULLABY BY JOHN TRANTER

I'm not jealous of your pet executives -  
their corns therapy, their new guitars.  
The latest boyfriend's hardly seventeen,  
isn't that what the tabloids say?  
In the cheap hotel, the heaps of magazines -  
You Can't Go Back to Woop Woop, sobs  
the big print. And the speed jerking  
up the spinal column to its spasm above.

Now the sea heaps itself on the pillow

with its wacky promises, and you're floating  
through the ceiling again. Tell sex to go  
back to the playpen where it came from. Your  
future's waiting: suburbia loud with radios,  
telling you to wake up now, and do the shopping!

From the new collection by the Australian poet  
John Tranter, 'Late Night Radio',  
published by Polygon (£7.95)

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# Vice-Admiral Sir Fitzroy Talbot

FITZROY TALBOT enjoyed the 88 years of his life, half of which he spent in the Royal Navy.

His first ambition had been to be a soldier, and a cavalryman to boot, which was not perhaps altogether surprising since his mother had been named after the 1864 Derby winner, Blair Athol. But his father was a distinguished Captain RN and two cousins were admirals: Sandhurst lost to Dartmouth and he entered in 1923. He passed out in 1926, much nearer the bottom than the top of his term - nearly four-fifths of the way down. And yet he - and a contemporary one place even lower - were the only two who rose to the flag list. This seemingly capricious outcome characterised his naval career. He was fortunate in his ability to ride out the changing patterns in his life so philosophically - "That's life, and you can't please everyone all the time," as he wrote in his memoirs, *Old Rope*.

This was just as well, for Fate dealt him some hard knocks to start with, some of them positively unfair, as opposed to merely unfortunate. Otherwise he typified that generation who were very junior officers in 1939 and who were lucky to end the war as commanders - and who then were fortunate in their appointments in a shrinking service and an uncertain peace.

He first went to sea in 1927 as a midshipman in *Royal Oak*, in time for the legendary courts-martial which resulted from a misguided remark about the quality named bandmaster of the ship by the Rear-Admiral flying his flag in her. These in turn involved two officers and their commander-in-chief, whose careers all went awry. Talbot's captain reported pointedly that his "only redeeming feature is his sense of humour".

Life as a sub-lieutenant was no less problematical. He went to the China station in the new county class cruiser *Chambray* and returned to the older light cruiser *Centaur* whence, to the regret of his seniors and the wrath of his relations, he opted out of general service for the Fleet Air Arm. This was an unfortunate diversion; another aircraft collided with his and, though he survived, it

was with a permanently damaged ankle that ended his flying career.

Rejoining the Fleet, he was appointed again to *Royal Oak* in the Mediterranean and from her to *Bryony*, ostensibly classed as a despatch vessel (the remnant of an earlier vocabulary, still retained despite the existence of wireless telegraphy), and *de facto* the private yacht of the Commander-in-Chief. Here, for two happy years, he was officially required to combine business with pleasure, his principal duties concerned with providing polo facilities for senior officers.

Such virtue brought its own re-

*"That's life, and you can't please everyone all the time," as he wrote in his memoirs, Old Rope*

ward. While still a Lieutenant he was given his own command, albeit of the coal-fired 1918 minesweeper infelicitously named *Stoke*, displacing all of 710 tons and, though a year younger than *Bryony*, only half her size - but his own ship. She had an uneventful commission, which was perhaps just as well, for it led to Talbot's appointment to the new destroyer *Imperial*, as First Lieutenant. This took him to the Mediterranean again, and the Spanish Civil War, when the Second World War broke out he was removed, still a Lieutenant with seniority of 1932, to command the 10th Anti-Submarine Striking Force, a rather grandiloquent title for four trawlers taken up from trade but, again, a command.

He had little to report beyond survival, an achievement of its own in the memorably hard first winter of the war, until they were sent to the relief of the ill-fated Norwegian expeditionary force at Andalsnes in April 1940. They lifted nearly 5,000

men in two runs a night until, on the fourth evening, *Talbot's* *Cope* *Stretcher* was bombed and her captain wounded in his left arm and hand. He demonstrated style by pausing to have a public shave between beaching his ship and ditching any confidential books on board. He came home in Glasgow, with King Haakon of Norway, the king's son and much of his nation's gold reserves. Talbot was awarded the DSO, unusual for a Lieutenant, and after his wounds were healed, was sent with a half stripe to command the 3rd MGB flotilla at Fowey.

He soon saw action off the French coast, and nearer home in July when his own MGB46 made a high-speed transit of Plymouth Sound and the Hamoaze to detonate acoustic mines which were closing the port. Surprisingly this feat received no official recognition and it may be significant that, after a riotous party soon afterwards in Fowey, a board of inquiry was critical of Talbot's leadership. This was bad enough. But soon after that, he was found ashore, while his boat was at sea, by a visiting staff officer (a VC of the First World War who Talbot described as "a slightly unbalanced fire-eater") who advised their lordships that he was "unfit for any type of command". This was palpably unfair, but matters were made worse by an explanatory letter from Talbot's own Flag Officer to the Admiralty being destroyed in an air-raid. His hopes of a destroyer disappeared and he was sent to Edinburgh as a supernumerary watch-keeper.

This was something of a public rebuke, but fortunately she was a happy ship with a good captain who soon appreciated Talbot's zeal and appointed him as First Lieutenant. This demonstration of professional recognition and a glowing report, accompanied by a letter to the Second Sea Lord based on the experience of a convoy to Cape Town, two to Malta and being torpedoed on the way home from Murrumbidgee - again carrying foreign gold - led to Talbot's first destroyer command, of the old *Whithead* with the 16th Destroyer Flotilla at Harwich.

In December 1942 he led a spir-



Talbot's last job was as Commander-in-Chief Plymouth

Imperial War Museum

ited but little-known and seldom-reported night attack against a German convoy off Dieppe in which a mine destructor ship was sunk and for which he was awarded a bar to his DSO. Now he went on, a Lieutenant-Commander, to command the new destroyer *Teazer*, supporting the Allied advances in Italy and the landings in the South of France in 1943 and 1944. In 1945 he was promoted Commander and his last wartime appointment - as onerous as any he had held, in its own way - was as Chief Staff Officer to Vice-Admiral Sir Gilbert Stephenson, who was serving as *Commodore* Western Isles and was better-known in Tobruk as "Monkey".

When the uncertain and troubled peace came, Talbot was lucky in his various appointments. It in no way belittles him to say that he became a classic example of the right man being in the right place at the proverbial right time. He was commanding another despatch vessel, *Alert*, in China, when *Amethyst* escaped. Promoted Captain in 1950, he had the challenging, if shore-based, job of Naval Attaché in Moscow, then Helsinki, before a year at the Imperial Defence College in 1954.

As Captain (D) in *Saintes* he saw the Cypriot troubles of 1955 and took part in the futile Anglo-French attempt to retrieve the Suez Canal the next year. Then he had one of the then much fewer but more penurious as *Commodore* RN Barracks Portsmouth before promotion to Rear-Admiral in 1960, after 10 years as a Captain.

He expressed modest astonishment that a man with no staff training and no Whitehall experience, but with a propensity to upset civil servants, should be employed on the flag list, but nevertheless found himself a CB and FO Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf.

As a Vice-Admiral in 1963 he became one of the last Commanders-in-Chief South Atlantic and South Africa, much of his attention directed

to Simonstown. In all the appointments, his relaxed and diplomatic manner was apparent, and successful. His last appointment was as Commander-in-Chief Plymouth 1963-65, where he was appointed KBE in 1964.

He had a happy life, and was proud of his career and contented in retirement, which he spent farming in Somerset. He rode with the Taunton Vale foxhounds of which, like the Taunton Vale Polo Club, he was the Chairman. He was a Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset from 1973, and served the Crown as cheerfully, willingly and philosophically as he had done the Royal Navy.

A. B. Sainsbury  
Arthur Allison Fitzroy Talbot, naval officer; born 22 October 1909; DSO 1940, and bar 1942; CB 1961; KBE 1964; married 1940 Joyce Linley (died 1981; two daughters); 1983 Lady (Elizabeth) Durlacher (died 1995); died 16 June 1998.

business. They bought the first of many premises, in Birmingham, broke Bob's salvaged motorcycle into spares and put them on sale in the window. As well as selling spare parts, Laura would repair bicycles and Bob motorcycles.

Throughout their lives they strived to make good out of bad, and employment out of unemployment. For instance, Bob Joyner Motorcycles could have had the spares for British motorcycles made more cheaply abroad, but Joyner insisted that a bike would not be truly British if it were to happen, and always put emphasis on the need to create employment in this country.

Even at the age of 80, Bob was still doing deals across the Midlands, whilst caring for Laura, who had developed Alzheimer's disease. Bob and Laura Joyner stood side by side throughout life, and they died side by side at their home in Oldbury.

## Bob Joyner

BOB JOYNER Motorcycles was the largest British motorcycle spares manufacturer and supplier in the world and could supply 94 per cent of British-made motorcycles with spares from their vast stock. Had Joyner not remained loyal to the "home" products during the years when people did not want British motorcycles, the British bike would nowadays be far scarcer.

Following the decline of the British motorcycle industry in the 1960s and 1970s, Bob Joyner Motorcycles embarked on over 26 acquisitions of stock, rights, patterns, research and development engines of suppliers/manufacturers including the companies James Francis Barnett, Bond Motors, Romac Cables, Swallow Gadsabout Scooters and, in 1974, Norton Villiers Triumph (NVT).

Some of the inherited business which came with these acquisitions was supplying spares to the Indian motorcycle police. Joyner's also made cables for the braking system on Concorde and jumbo jets, although only those for the drinks trolleys.

In 1966-67 he also developed Elstar Grass Track competition bikes and formed his own racing team, which went on to win the British and European grass track championship on numerous occasions.

Robert William Joyner was born in 1914, one of a family of nine children. His parents were the owners of a Birmingham haulage business. He spent many hours in his uncle's hardware and cycle shop, where his duties included delivering batteries and accumulators door to door and assisting in bicycle repairs.

Joyner started work, aged 14, in a steel foundry. His first transport was a motorbike and his hobby became attending motorcycle sports venues, where he rode as sidcar passenger for Charles "Fatty" Bowers. In 1934, the pair of them won the British championship at Lilleshall Hall, in Shropshire.

In 1937 Joyner was out riding his motorcycle when a Bentley pulled out in front of him; he collided with the car and broke his leg. He was hospitalised for nearly a year, but this, in his own words, was his "lucky break", as he received the sum of £250 in compensation.

In 1939 he married Laura Whittall, and, using the money from this compensation, the Joyners set up in



business. They bought the first of many premises, in Birmingham, broke Bob's salvaged motorcycle into spares and put them on sale in the window. As well as selling spare parts, Laura would repair bicycles and Bob motorcycles.

Throughout their lives they strived to make good out of bad, and employment out of unemployment. For instance, Bob Joyner Motorcycles could have had the spares for British motorcycles made more cheaply abroad, but Joyner insisted that a bike would not be truly British if it were to happen, and always put emphasis on the need to create employment in this country.

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Duncan Newport

Robert William Joyner, motorcycle engineer; born Birmingham 10 June 1913; married 1939 Laura Whittall (died 1998; one son, two daughters); died Oldbury, West Midlands 14 June 1998.

## General Georges Buis

LIEUTENANT GEORGES Buis joined the forces of Free France in May 1941 and fought against the Vichy army in Syria and the Lebanon. He joined General Leclerc's tanks at Tamar in Morocco and moved with them to England, from where he landed in France at the so-called Utah Beach, and proceeded to the liberation of Paris on 25 August 1944, then from Paris to Strasbourg and eventually to Hitler's eyrie at Berchtesgaden. After 1945 there were further wars in Indo-China, Morocco and Algeria.

He was thus an experienced soldier who had taken part in difficult battles. But he was more than this. He was an intellectual of war. The complete military man with a gift for observation and analysis, he expressed himself with a subtle use of language. He was a commanding officer who wrote novels. He could always find a use for his talents but he could also be troublesome. He once explained his career as one where he caused upsets and therefore was moved on. He has often been compared to Lawrence of Arabia.

He used to tell a typical story about the manoeuvres held by tank units in Champagne before the Second World War. As was customary, when they were concluded a meeting was held where the various commanders reported in public to

the representative of the Commander-in-Chief, General Gamelin. As one of the field commanders was speaking, Buis observed a strange figure emerge from the ranks of those listening. He was "an immense bonhomme", wearing the long overcoat of the cavalry officer, together with boots and spurs.

He was, said Buis, a character from a painting by El Greco. He interrupted the speaker and accused him of having committed faults in his manoeuvring of tanks which the most junior of officers would never have committed. When the commander of the opposing side started to intervene, the colonel turned on him. "You should not have drawn attention to yourself," he said scornfully. "You did nothing." The representative of the Commander-in-Chief at this point called everyone to order. The colonel saluted and, doing a correct about-turn, "with a certain noblesse" returned to his place.

This was Buis' first encounter with de Gaulle, in 1937. But the point of the story so far as he was concerned was to show how the French army was ignorant about tank warfare. Many of the observations with whom he worked, Generals Catroux and de Gaulle in Syria, subsequently Leclerc, but much of



the interest, not only for us but for Buis himself, concerned his comments about the French.

In Syria, the Vichy French were passionately in favour of Pétain and consumed by a hatred of de Gaulle and the Free French forces. When an important French official gave a dinner party, Buis recorded, the hostess would begin proceedings by taking her guests to see the latest photographs of the Marshal that had just arrived from France. The Commandant Garbit was in the Free French forces and carrying the French flag and shouting that he was French. He advanced towards the

forces of the Vichy General Dentz. An officer in command of a Senegalese unit gave the order, "Shoot that fool carrying the flag." He was mortally wounded.

Buis spent his first night in liberated Paris, sleeping on the pavement in the rue de Rivoli. He was woken up and given a copy of the resistance paper *Combat*. This was exciting. Then a fellow officer took him to have lunch with a wealthy uncle. This uncle congratulated them on their wisdom. They had, he said, chosen the right side.

The English sometimes fare better in Buis' recollections. As Leclerc's tanks were passing through Daventry, one of them skidded and crashed with all its 20 tons into the dining room of a cottage. The officer in charge, who had nearly been decapitated, emerged from his tank and contemplated the English family who lived there. "I'm sorry," he said. But everything went smoothly. A fortnight later the family invited the tank crew to tea.

Georges Buis was born in Saigon in 1912. He was the son and the grandson of army officers, his father being in the colonial army. He was educated at Toulon. His dream was to become a student at the Ecole Normale Supérieure. Instead he went to Saint-Cyr, which he hated. He adored literature and was attracted

to the world of art. Only in rugby did he excel in an activity that seemed suitable for a future officer. He was sent to Syria in 1938 and was therefore absent from France in 1940.

Appointed as the head of General Catroux's office in Beirut after the difficulties of French relations with the French, and French relations with the British, he played a conciliatory and tactful role in the various personal quarrels. On one occasion an exasperated General Catroux wrote to de Gaulle resigning all his offices. He gave it to Buis to codify and transmit. The next day Buis returned to Catroux's office and gave him the message book. "This was not sent," he said. Catroux took the message, put it in his drawer and talked of other things.

During the war in Algeria, Buis (by now a Colonel) commanded French forces in the difficult area of the Hodna, lying between Kabylia and the Sahara proper. He discovered traces of a large number of rebels. By taking swift action, he led paratroops to the unit that was serving under the man who was regarded as the most dangerous of the rebel commanders, Amirouche, and set in motion the action that led to his death. In Buis' 1961 novel *Le Grotte*, there are certain echoes of this incident, although Buis always said that in Kabylia he felt he was really in his

home department of the Drôme. The countryside, the people were the same. He could not become friends with the villagers in Kabylia because it was a time of war and revolution. But he claimed to understand them.

In 1962 Buis became *chef de cabinet* for Christian Fouchet, who was preparing for Algeria's becoming independent. In 1966 he became military governor of Paris with the rank of General. He went on to be the Director of the Institut des Hautes Etudes de Défense Nationale and played an important role in similar establishments (including the Royal Institute of Strategic Studies in London). Amongst his many distinguished military decorations he was proud to be a *Commandeur des Palmes Académiques*.

In May 1945, after the armistice, Captain Buis came from Berchtesgaden to present General de Gaulle with Goering's armed Mercedes, which had been found in Hitler's garage. De Gaulle looked at him quizzically. "Well, Buis, you're still alive? You're lucky."

General Buis died in Paris this month.

Douglas Johnson  
Georges Buis, soldier and writer; born Saigon 24 February 1912; married 1946 Huguette Franquin; died Paris 12 June 1998.



PEGGY ANN Wood made an important contribution to theatrical life in Bristol and beyond, in partnership with her husband Ronald Russell. Together they ran the Rapier Players, managing the Little Theatre at the Colston Hall in Bristol for 28 years between 1935 and 1963, presenting over 900 productions (ranging from Strindberg and Chekhov to Coward and Rattigan, and including nearly 50 world premieres) and employing dozens of actors who later

established themselves elsewhere as well-known names or useful company members.

Among them were Michael Hordern, Mervyn Johns, Constance Chapman, Peter Jeffrey, Clifford Rose, Jean Watts, Malcolm Farquhar, Sheila Allen, John Warner, and Lockwood West, whose actor son Timothy recalls:

The Rapier Players kept going all that time without any kind of subsidy from local or central government. While Ronnie was in the police force during the (Second World War - along with my father,

who was their leading man at the time - Peggy Ann practically ran the theatre single-handed and kept going with one show a week. We've lost an important link with a theatrical past that young people can hardly recognise or scarcely believe in - the world of constant weekly rep, 48 shows a year.

Born in 1912, Peggy Ann Wood was the daughter of Arthur Wood, a conductor in London theatre and, incidentally, the composer of "Barwick Green", the long-lasting theme tune of the radio soap opera, *The Archers*.

Educated at St Paul's School, in London, she first met Ronald Russell in 1931 in repertory at Rochester, in Kent, where they became a much-loved pair of juvenile leads. She came to Bristol to join his first company at the Little Theatre in 1935, and they married in 1937. Constance Chapman, who was one of the Rapier Players between 1942 and 1947, recalls:

All through the war, the Rapier Players were a little beacon of light, firing the spirits of the audi-

ence. Peggy Ann not only played dozens of leading roles - in anything from a Ben Travers farce to *Roscoe's A Doll's House* - but she often directed the productions, and had a hand in the management and the programming. The company was a Bristol institution - even when I was appearing on television, members of the public who approached me would often talk about the famous Rapier Players "two for the price of one" Monday night shows!

When the Colston Hall burnt down in 1945, the Little Theatre reopened within five days despite losing all the

records, costumes and properties in the fire. From 1949, the Rapier Players worked as a fortnightly rep until 1963 when the Little Theatre was taken over by the subsidised Bristol Old Vic (BOV) Company.

With money left over after the Rapier Players were wound up, the Russells set up a lasting scholarship for the benefit of Bristol University drama students who went on to the BOV Theatre School for vocational training.

Wood continued working as an actress until shortly before her husband's death in 1994, her last television role being Vera Pelling, the grandmother's diffident friend, in the ITV series *After Henry*, with Prunella Scales.

Shirley Brown  
Peggy Ann Wood, actress, director and theatre manager; born London 14 June 1912; married 1937 Ronald Russell (died 1994); died Bristol 30 May 1998.



هكذا من الأناص

## Dr Waryam Singh

EYEBROWS WERE raised in certain quarters of polite Edinburgh society when in 1991, a somewhat obscure Sikh ear, nose and throat surgeon from one of their suburbs was nominated for the Annual Great Scot of the Year Award for medicine. It's not every year that Scotland can boast a Nobel prizewinner in Medicine or Science, so Waryam Singh was not surprisingly pipped at the post by Sir James Black, though it was Singh's nomination that caught the public imagination and, having met at the Downing Street reception, he and Black became fast friends. The Nobel laureate hinted darkly on more than one occasion that he regarded Singh as a far more ingenious man than himself.

One reason perhaps was Singh's remarkable skills in technical innovation. His speech valve for instance, now widely used around the world, was designed to provide "hands free" speech for patients who had undergone laryngectomy for cancer and in consequence now face life with permanent tracheostomy. Other speech valves required the patient to "stop-up" the device with a fingertip and for many, the Singh Speech System, patented in 1987, provided a solution to a troublesome and often embarrassing drawback in communication.

In addition, for many years, he was very much in the forefront of analytical voice research, pioneering computer-programming techniques for measurement of laryngeal pressures and speech profiles. Equally as a practical man, he was amongst the first to recognise the crucial importance of psychosocial rehabilitation for laryngectomy patients, founding a local laryngectomy club in 1983, well before such concerns had become widespread.

At the time of his death, he was working in close collaboration with Keele University to which he had just been appointed Professor though, alas, was fated never to take up the post on further laboratory techniques for assessment and improvement of non-laryngeal speech - a key initiative since the continued prevalence of cigarette smoking throughout the world will doubtless ensure a continuing high volume of laryngeal cancer patients, many of whom will require radical surgery for cure.

Waryam Singh was born in the Punjab and educated at Patiala Medical College, qualifying in 1962 and almost immediately entering the specialty of ENT surgery and arriving in the UK for postgraduate studies in 1968. After early posts at the Whittington and Central Middlesex Hospitals he travelled north to Aberdeen, rapidly becoming en-

raptured with Scotland and the Scots, and remaining there (apart from a brief period as a locum at St Thomas's Hospital in London) for the remainder of his career.

He was appointed in 1980 as a consultant in ENT surgery and, despite being single-handed and in relative isolation in the military huts of the District Hospital (Bangour General in West Lothian), he was determined to develop a voice research laboratory in the region. Aided by an award from the Scottish Home and Health Department, and due entirely to his unceasing efforts, this took shape shortly after the opening of the St John's Hospital, Livingston, just outside Edinburgh, in 1989.

The voice laboratory is now a focus for observers and collaborating scientists from all over the world. Health officials, colleagues, junior staff alike - we all found that a potent and charismatic mixture of charm, tenacity, and single-mindedness made him a most difficult man to say "no" to.

*His potent mixture of charm, tenacity and single-mindedness made him a most difficult man to say 'no' to*

fact man to say "no" to. His lack of pomposity was reflected in his preference always to be known as "Dr" rather than "Mr" - the normal appellation for surgical specialists.

His local fame (or was it notoriety?) was assured when he fitted a Singh speech prosthesis to the throat of the post-laryngectomy vicar who could now deliver lengthy sermons. Even more importantly, Singh rapidly developed a wider international reputation for academic and practical excellence both in the fields of head and neck surgery, and also voice production and restoration.

Among many papers, essays and books, his book *Functional Surgery of the Larynx and Pharynx* (written with David Soutar, 1992) has proved very popular and influential. He hosted and organised the first ever International Voice Symposium in Edinburgh in 1987, and brought together 300 delegates from 40 countries. Active in the fields both of surgical



Waryam and Maya Singh at the 25th annual conference of the British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists, held in Edinburgh, 1993

research and medical politics - each so consuming as to be generally exclusive of each other - he became the first ever British doctor to be invited to take the Presidency of the European Association of Phoniatrics as well as holding the posts of Chairman of the Overseas Doctors Association of Scotland and President of the Lothian Section of the BMA for five years (1990-95).

In 1993, as President of the British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists, he stamped his exuberant personality on this multimodal inter-disciplinary group by rapidly expanding the membership during his two years of office and by bringing off the most successful of all its 25 annual meetings despite the misgivings of many consultants that a conference outside London would surely prove disastrous. In this he was greatly supported as ever by his wife, Maya, who herself gladly gave up a promising career in ophthalmology to support his many activities.

Universities around the world clam-

oured for his expertise and wisdom. He was the first British surgeon to receive the French Comité d'Honneur Association de Rééducateurs des Mutilés de la Voix for work on reconstructive surgery of the larynx. He took visiting professorships at Mayo Clinic, Berlin, Prague, and Kyoto and was awarded honorary diplomas or degrees from universities in France, Russia, Hungary and Portugal (including, in 1994, the medal of Distinction of the Portuguese Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery).

He was at the Universitè Ziekenhuis in Leuven, Belgium, as visiting professor, when he suffered his final devastating heart attack.

Jeffrey Tobias

Waryam Singh Brar, ear, nose and throat and head-and-neck surgeon, born Punjab, India 1 June 1933; married 1980 Dr Maya Sudha (one son, one daughter); died Leuven, Belgium 30 May 1998.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

EDWARD CHANEY

## The evolution of the Grand Tourist

THE WAY in which England and even Britain as a whole became civilised through contact with Italy - the story of the Grand Tour and its evolution since the Renaissance - makes for fascinating study.

It was by encountering the new art in 16th-century Italy that the English first began to appreciate painting, sculpture and architecture in something like the way we do today. Travel to Italy had been undertaken for a variety of reasons.

Pilgrimage to Rome was encouraged by the religious rulers who succeeded the emperors. Authors from Chaucer to Erasmus eventually mocked this custom and the Reformation sealed its fate where their co-nationals were concerned. But the urge to travel proved too strong to be extinguished by a mere change of religion. From the mid-16th century, northern Europeans justified travel to the south in terms of secular education. English students had travelled to Italy to learn Greek and Latin; now they travelled to learn Italian and to study medicine, diplomacy, dancing, riding, fencing, and only very gradually art and architecture.

After Henry VIII's break with Rome, and even more so after the excommunication of Queen Elizabeth in 1570 and the subsequent war with Spain, prior to James's peace treaty of 1604, Italy was not easily visited by Englishmen. The literary culture travelled relatively easily and influenced Shakespeare, but in order to absorb the visual renaissance (other than through the medium of prints) it was essential to travel to the source.

Where architecture is concerned - though in the present relativist academic climate it is currently unfashionable to say so - John Aubrey's comment seems to me roughly correct: "In Queen Elizabeth's time Architecture made no progress but rather went backwards." Once the visual arts did become established as the major attraction, however, the English energetically made up for lost time. Where once pious (and not so pious) pilgrims visited sacred shrines and returned with relics, now Grand (and not so grand) Tourists visited Roman ruins and returned with works of art. In the early Stuart period, the 1614-15 tour of the Earl and Countess of Arundel, who took Inigo Jones with them as their cicerone, epitomises the



Charles I: set an example

self-conscious effort of the English to catch up what had been happening abroad.

Even now, though, our efforts were not sustained for long enough to consolidate the assimilation of the Renaissance and the establishment of a native school of art (after the foreign imports of Turrigiano, Holbein, Van Dyck, Rubens and Lely). Civil War in the 1640s saw most artists, imported and home-grown, scatter or die. Charles I was, above all, concerned never to be sent "on his travels" again and so, although pleased to receive diplomatic gifts in the form of paintings, he never went to the expensive lengths his father had done to seek out and acquire works of art.

Charles was a Francophile owing to his years in exile in his mother's country and if anything the French orientation in matters of taste increased under his openly Catholic brother, James II. Their increasingly wealthy subjects, however, looked back to the example of Charles I and his courtiers and rediscovered Italy.

As our understanding of the sources of Renaissance civilisation grew - and through this, of classical civilisation itself - so too did the importance of Italy as the ultimate destination for the Grand Tourist. By the 18th century, study of the arts in their continental context had come to be regarded as a prerequisite to becoming not merely a "virtuoso", but virtuous in the modern sense of the word also.

Edward Chaney is the author of *The Evolution of the Grand Tour: Anglo-Italian cultural relations since the Renaissance*, published this week by Frank Cass, £45

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

CARSTEN: Francis, Emeritus Professor at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, on 23 June, in hospital, aged 86. Father of Oliver, Colin and Janet. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium, West Chapel, Friday 3 July, 3.30pm. Flowers to J.E. Kenyon, 9 Pond Street, London NW3 2PN.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, visits the Corps of Royal Engineers, Her Majesty, Berkshire, and, as Patron, attends the Women's Royal Voluntary Service's Diamond Celebration Garden Party at Milton Hill House, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. The Prince of Wales attends the England v Colombia World Cup football match at Lens, France. The Duchess of Gloucester, President, Royal Academy of Music, attends the Graduation Ceremony, St Marylebone Parish Church, London NW1. The Duke of Kent, President, All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, attends the Wimbledon Championships, London SW19.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.50am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £2.50 a line (VAT extra).

#### BIRTHDAYS

Mr Claudio Abbado, conductor, 66; Sir Campbell Adamson, former chairman, Abbey National, 76; Sir Alan Bailey, former Permanent Secretary, Department of Transport, 67; Professor Kenneth Barker, Vice-Chancellor and chief executive, De Montfort University, 64; Mr Leslie Carpenter, former chairman, Reed International, 71; Mr George Fame, singer and songwriter, 55; Dr Alexander Fenton, Director, European Ethnological Research Centre, Edinburgh, 69; Mr William Hamilton, former MP, 81; Rear-Admiral Sir David Haslam, hydrographer, 75; Professor Ruth Kempson, linguist, 54; Mr Robert Maclean MP, 62; Sir Peter Miles, former Keeper of the Privy Purse, 74; Miss Eleanor Parker, actress, 76; Professor Sir Alan Peacock, economist, 76; Mr Peter Pike MP, 61; Mr Nicholas Polunin, environmentalist, 89; Lord Rawlinson of Ewell QC, former Attorney-General, 79; Mr Philip Sawford MP, 48; Professor Maurice Wilkes, computer scientist, 85; Mr Colin Wilson, writer, 67; Mr David Winnick MP, 65.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Philip Doddridge, non-conformist minister, 1702; Charles-Joseph Messier, astronomer, 1730; George Morland, painter, 1763; William Thomson, first Baron Kelvin, physicist and inventor, 1824; Pearl Sydenstricker Buck, novelist, 1892; Willy Messerschmitt, aircraft designer, 1898; Peter Lorre (Lazlo Loewenstein), actor, 1904; Laurie Lee, poet and writer, 1914. Deaths: Julian the Apostate, Roman Emperor, died of wounds 363; Francisco Pizarro, conqueror of Peru, assassinated 1541; Sir Richard Fanshawe, diplomat, translator and poet, 1666; The Rev Gilbert White, naturalist and cleric, 1793; Joseph-Michel Montgolfier,

balloonist, 1810; Samuel Crompton, inventor of the spinning mule, 1827; George IV, King, 1830; Claude-Joseph Rouget de Lisle, writer and composer of "La Marseillaise", 1836; Ford Madox Ford, novelist and poet, 1939; Sir Charles Cloc, financier, 1979; Carl Foreman, film producer, 1984; George Horace Gallup, pollster, 1984. On this day: Christ's Hospital, the Bluecoat School, was granted its charter, 1553; the French were victorious against the Duke of Coburg in Belgium at the Battle of Fleurus, 1794; William IV ascended the British throne, 1830; the Corn Laws were repealed, 1846; Victoria Crosses were awarded to 62 men of the army and navy by Queen Victoria in Hyde Park, 1857; the Battle of Meadville (American Civil War), was fought, 1862; Wagner's opera *The Valkyrie* was first performed, Munich, 1870; the Order of Merit was instituted by King Edward VII, 1902; the new Victoria and Albert Museum was opened, 1909; the first Queen Alexandra Day was held, 1912; a great fire at Salem, Massachusetts rendered 10,000 people homeless, 1914; following publication of a manifesto for peace, the newspaper *Vorwärts* was suppressed in Germany, 1915; the American Expeditionary Force arrived in France, 1917; Finland entered the war on the German side in a "defensive capacity", 1941; the United Nations Charter was signed by 50 nations in San Francisco, 1945; the St Lawrence Seaway was opened by Queen Elizabeth II and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1959; Madagascar proclaimed its independence as the Malagasy Republic, 1960; the first London production of the musical show *Grease* was presented, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Anselm, bishop, St John of the Goths, St Maxentius, St Pelagius of Cordova, Saints Salvus or Sanve and

Superius and St Vigilus of Trent.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggin, "Mysteries (v): Van Dyck, *The Balbi Children*", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Francis Pugh, "Art Nouveau, France 1900", 2pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Robert Wenley, "19th-century Collectors: British collectors", 1pm.

#### LUNCHEONS

Mid-Atlantic Club/English-Speaking Union: The Japanese Ambassador, Mr Sadaaki Hayashi, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon held yesterday by the Mid-Atlantic Club at the English-Speaking Union, London W1. He spoke on "UK-Japan Relations". Lord Ezra, Chairman, Energy and Technical Services, took the chair.

#### RECEPTIONS

HM Government: Mrs Barbara Roche MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Small Firms, Trade and Industry, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, on the occasion of the Business in the Community 1998 Awards for Excellence in Corporate Community Investment.

#### DINNERS

HM Government: Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a dinner given yesterday evening at Admiralty House, London SW1, in honour of Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the heir apparent of the state of Qatar.

HMS Victory: Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home

Command, and Lady Brigstocke, were the hosts at a dinner held yesterday evening in HMS Victory, at Portsmouth Naval Base. Among those present were: The Hon William and Mrs Waldegrave; Mr Andrew Carl, Director and Vice-President of Smithkline Beecham Pharmaceuticals Europe, and Mrs Carl; Professor Robert and Mrs O'Neill; Mr and Mrs John Crosby; Mr and Mrs John Mounsey; Mr and Mrs Richard Swayan.

Glaziers' Company: Mr G.C. Bond, Master, Worshipful Company of Glaziers, received members of the court and their guests at the St Peter's Day Quarter Court dinner held yesterday evening at Glaziers' Hall, London SE1. Among those present were: Professor Fawcett Swann; Dr Paul A. Kongprum; Mr R. Bolster; Miss Inger Russell, Consul of the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

Coningsby Club: Lord Parkinson was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Coningsby Club held yesterday evening at the Carlton Club, London SW1. Mr Peter Brooke MP presided.

#### ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Ms Maria Kielmas, Editor of *Lotol*, was the guest speaker at an Atlantic Council Forum Briefing held yesterday at Atlantic House, London SW1. Mr Alan Lee Williams, Director, presided.

#### SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 9.08pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-543 3839. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1685. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-249 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-288 2072. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1028.

## 'Last act' jurisdiction rule still stands

### FRIDAY LAW REPORT

26 JUNE 1998

Regina v Manning  
*Court of Appeal (Criminal Division)*  
*Lord Justice Buxton, Mr Justice Wright and Mr Justice David Steel*  
24 June 1998

IN ESTABLISHING the jurisdiction of the English courts to try offences with an international element, the "last act" rule has not been replaced by the "comity" theory.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of John Laurence Manning against his conviction of three counts of procuring the execution of a valuable security, contrary to section 20(2) of the Theft Act 1968.

The appellant, who ran his own maritime insurance business, was charged, *inter alia*, with three counts of false accounting contrary to section 17(1)(a) of the Theft Act 1968, in connection with insurance cover notes containing false information which had been given to an insured in Greece; with three counts of procuring the execution of a valuable security, contrary to section 20(2) of the 1968 Act, based on the fact that the insured had issued cheques in Greece to pay the appellant on the basis of the false cover notes; and with two further counts of false accounting, the false cover notes having been sent to a broker.

He was convicted, and appealed against conviction on the grounds, *inter alia*, that in the absence of evidence explaining the actual use made of the cover notes which were the subject of the charges of false accounting by the persons to whom they were sent, the jury had not been entitled to conclude that they were documents "required for any accounting purpose" within the terms of section 17(1)(a) of the Act; and that the court had had no jurisdiction to try the charges of procuring the execution of a

valuable security under section 20(2) of the Act, the *actus reus* of those offences having been completed in Greece. *Alastair Malcolm QC (Registrar of Criminal Appeals)* for the appellant; *Warwick McKinnon (Crown Prosecution Service)* for the Crown.

Lord Justice Buxton said that it was accepted that under section 17(1)(a) of the Act an accounting purpose could be merely an incidental, and not necessarily the principal, purpose of the document in question. The cover notes in the present case had set out the assured and the insurer; the period of insurance; and the rate of interest and the rate of dates on which the premiums were to be paid.

There was no doubt that the cover notes would play a role in the accounting process of the appellant's clients, and the jury had been entitled, simply by looking at the documents, to come to the conclusion that they were required for an accounting purpose, in that they set out what was owed by the

client. That ground of appeal was, accordingly, rejected, but the court was bound to say that such arguments could be avoided by prosecutors calling evidence, of a brief and probably unchallenged nature, as to how documents on which they relied under section 17(1)(a) were in fact used.

In the present case, the procurement of the execution of a valuable security had not occurred until the cheques had been signed in Greece. Apart from the underlying need, in order to establish the jurisdiction of the court, that a defendant should be physically within the jurisdiction, it had until recently been thought that the common law's only further requirement was that the act needed to complete the *actus reus* should have taken place within the jurisdiction.

In recent years, however, an alternative approach, the "comity theory", based on observations of Lord Diplock in *Treacy v DPP* [1971] 1 All ER 110, had been adumbrated, and had been adopted in *R v Smith* (Wallace Duncan) [1996] 2 Cr App R 1. Although in terms of reason and policy it would be highly desirable to accept the comity theory as a rule of jurisdiction, the court was bound by the decisions in *R v Harden* [1962] 1 All ER 571 and *R v Nanayakkara* [1987] 1 All ER 650 to apply the "last act" rule, and the decision in *Smith* could not stand.

Accordingly, the Crown Court had had no jurisdiction to try the appellant on the counts under section 20(2), and his convictions on those counts would be quashed.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

## WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON  
Non-standard *adj.*

NON-STANDARD is one of the words those frighteningly polite people at Chambers use to describe errors in spelling or usage which, with a resigned air, now feel are sanctioned by popular consent.

It is, they say, "colloq." to use *infer* to mean *imply*. Spelling *minuscule* as *miniscule* is "not yet wide-

broad spectrum of shades ranging from "typical, average, unexceptional" to "accepted as supremely authoritative".

For this reason, the term *Standard English*, is, according to Chambers, "generally shunned by linguists". Is "Standard English" a non-standard use of the word "standard"?



The picture-perfect marriage that Demi Moore and Bruce Willis presented to the world has ended. Was it professional rivalry, a clash of egos or something darker – the ghosts of their childhoods returning to haunt them? And should we care? **By Jasper Rees**

a larger than life body with no sex to represent the race into the millennium. But a human without genitals is like a minister without portfolio.

The sentiment echoes that of the writer Phil Mullen, putting the case for a new, multi-sexuality in *The Gay Alternative* way back in 1974. "Now that we're finally learning that gay is good, we'll have to start learning that gay isn't good enough," he wrote. "Some of us will obviously be able to make more progress in this area than others."



The popular view  
of women in  
organised crime  
is of gangsters'  
molls, ignorant  
of 'the business'.

The reality, as  
the authorities  
are discovering,  
is very different.

By Clare  
Longrigg

Last week Marisa Merico, 27, daughter of an Italian Mafia boss and an English mother, was released from prison in Italy after serving 16 months of a six-year sentence for money laundering.

Marisa had spent three years in Durham prison before being extradited to Italy. "They waited until the morning of her birthday to do it; they did that on purpose, the bastards," said her mother, Patricia Di Giovine, who lives in Blackpool and has been looking after Marisa's daughter Lara. Patricia was tried with her daughter four years ago, but was acquitted of any Mafia association. She recently needed to undergo heart surgery, as a result of stress.

In prison, Marisa was considered an escape risk: "When she went to the toilet they had three guards outside the door, and there wasn't even a window. They thought her father was going to come and pick her up in a helicopter."

The prison service's fears were not entirely unfounded. Emilio Di Giovine, Marisa's father, is a convicted drug and arms trafficker for the Calabrian Mafia, the Ndrangheta. He became notorious after a dramatic escape from a Portuguese prison, when his gang used ground-to-air missiles to blast him out of jail, and picked him up by helicopter.

Emilio Di Giovine was the eldest son of a Calabrian crime family that moved to Milan and took control of the heroin trade in one part of the city. But it was his mother who masterminded the family's operations. Under her leadership, her 12 children made millions to fund the clan in the long-running Calabrian Mafia wars.

Blackpool-born Patricia Reilly met Emilio Di Giovine one summer in the Seventies, while she was on holiday. They married, and Patricia travelled frequently to Italy to visit Emilio's family. Soon after their daughter was born, Emilio ran off with his 19-year-old mistress. (When he later dumped the mistress, the two women became friends.) Patricia brought her daughter home and raised her in Blackpool. Despite this history, Patricia expresses no bitterness towards Emilio - she stayed in contact with the Di Giovine family, and Marisa spent a lot of time as a teenager in Milan with her father's extended family.

In 1993, one of Emilio's sisters was arrested in northern Italy after being found in possession of 1,000 tablets of ecstasy. Rita Di Giovine had been working for the family since she was 12, when she was taken out of school to help her parents to unpack cocaine hidden in the panels of imported cars, and to stuff parcels of heroin into bottles of shampoo. By the age of 33, Rita had three children by different fathers;



Marisa Merico in happier times, before being convicted of laundering dirty money for the Mafia

## Mummy runs the Mob

she had been in jail several times herself and had been working for her brothers, transporting large sums of cash and quantities of drugs. Part of her job was to bribe local police to overlook the family's activities, and in some cases to recruit them, enlisting them to give the family information on any investigations or imminent arrests. Rita's son had begun dealing heroin for the family when he was 15, and himself became an addict. By the time she was arrested, Rita had had enough. Exhausted and angry with her brothers, mired in debts and addicted to amphetamines, she decided that rather than carry on working for the family business, she would destroy it.

Soon after her arrest in March 1993, Rita Di Giovine agreed to give evidence against her family in return for state protection. Over the following months, police picked up her brothers, her mother and stepfather, her son, and her ex-husband. Eventually the trail led to England, to Patricia Di Giovine and her daughter Marisa, who were arrested and charged with laundering money for the Mafia. Marisa had been apprehended after making a series of deposits in a London bank, and putting in a bid for a massive house in Yorkshire.

Marisa was given four years.

Speaking from prison in northern Italy, she told a Channel 5 documentary team: "I didn't set out to clean money, you know. I just, my father asked me to do something and I would. He'd say, 'well, here's an apartment, I want this, I want you to have this in your name', and I'd go and sign with the lawyer."

Marisa claimed that she never asked her father what the money was for: "It wasn't for me to ask or, you know, sit down and say 'Well, look what's going on here'. I would never dream of doing that. It just wasn't my place." She did, however, provide an explanation that exactly fits the Italian model of family values: "I was getting married, and I was pregnant at the time. So maybe within myself he thought, well, she's not a little girl any more. He wanted to put something away for us. When I opened this account, he told me it was for my brothers and sisters."

Marisa was released on a technicality and is now staying with her in-laws in Milan awaiting the prosecution's appeal. Her husband Bruno is currently serving a prison sentence for drug trafficking. Just before Christmas, Marisa wrote from prison to tell him their marriage was over.

Marisa claims she never asked her father why he wanted her to open a bank account in England, but

she does acknowledge that the image of women as silent and obedient is false. "It is a well known fact that women have a lot of influence over men in a lot of ways. Behind every powerful man there is a woman that's helping them."

Rita Di Giovine's testimony revealed that, contrary to popular belief, the Italian Mafia employs many women in active roles. In an interview, she said, "My mother was the

be home to the most traditional and chauvinist Mafia - and charged with running Mafia enterprises.

State witnesses such as Rita Di Giovine have shown that women not only knew what went on inside organised crime families, but took an active role, getting involved in everything from organising a prison break-out to ordering hits.

The belief that women were not involved in organised crime was

*In 1990, just one woman was indicted for Mafia Association. By 1995, the number of women charged with Mafia-related crimes had risen to 89*

boss of the family. She was the one who gave the orders, even if my brother (Emilio) was the boss in name. She decided who was to do what, but she did it all in a way that my brother wouldn't notice she was running the family, not him."

In the past six or seven years, police have begun to target women in their investigations, and the number of arrests has risen rapidly. In 1990, just one woman was indicted for Mafia association. According to a government report, by 1995 the number of women charged for Mafia crimes had risen to 89. In the last year, a number of women have been arrested in western Sicily - said to

sanctioned by a 1983 judgement in a Palermo court, where the judge ruled that women were not clever enough to negotiate the "difficult world of business". This view, of course, greatly assisted the Mafia. Since women were virtually invisible to the judiciary, the Mafia employed them in a variety of key roles. One Calabrian examining magistrate said ruefully: "If only we had followed the women, we could have solved many more crimes."

The myth that women had no role in the Mafia has been perpetuated by Mario Puzo's novel *The Godfather*, which, via Francis Ford Coppola's film, became the standard

reference work on the Italian-American Mafia. Aspiring mafiosi, increasingly remote from their cultural roots, watch Mafia movies for guidance on how to behave. A US policeman has said that every time he raids a Mafia house, he finds a full shelf of Mafia movies on video.

Puzo's account of women in criminal circles was of sexually voracious, greedy harpids, who have no understanding of Mafia politics. Intriguingly, the author recently revealed that he had based the character of Don Vito Corleone on his mother: "Whenever the Godfather opened his mouth, in my own mind I heard the voice of my mother. I heard her wisdom, her ruthlessness, and her unconquerable love for her family and for life itself, qualities not valued in women at the time. The Don's courage and loyalty came from her; his humanity came from her." Stirring words, but the damage was done: the distorted image of Mafia women in *The Godfather* informed popular prejudice for years.

It was not until Italian law offered state witnesses protection that the true extent of women's role in organised crime emerged. Rita Di Giovine is not the only woman to have blown apart the Mafia's cover of silence. Since 1990, a series of Italian women have agreed to give

evidence against the Mafia clans in return for protection and the chance of a new start in life under a secret identity. One young Sicilian widow and state witness, Piera Aiello, said: "The wives of mafiosi always know everything. If they were to talk, it would be end of Cosa Nostra." Now that the judiciary is waking up to the idea that women play an active role in organised crime, these defectors are becoming a key weapon in the fight against the Mafia.

The Di Giovine family, a massively successful crime syndicate, was devastated by Rita's betrayal. During the trial, her mother screamed abuse at her across the courtroom and called her a liar. Patricia describes her sister-in-law as a thief who popped slimming pills and slept around. She still wants to know why Rita turned against them. "I dreamed about her the other day. I dreamed I was with her in a car," she said. "I wanted to ask her why she did it, why she shopped everybody. There were stickers all over the car windows, so many she could hardly see out. Then I realised she had the stickers so she could hide behind them, so nobody could see her."

*'Mafia Women', Channel 5, 28 June, 1pm. 'Mafia Women' by Clare Longrigg is published by Vintage on 2 July, priced £5.99*

### BUILD YOUR OWN LIBRARY 3: STEPHEN VENABLES ON MOUNTAINEERING

## 'After all, big hills are the real heroes'

THE LITERATURE of mountaineering is a Himalaya of its own. Many of the finest pioneer climbers were as addicted to book-writing as they were to the undertaking of memorable exploits on rock and snow.

As their stirring narratives of first ascents and fearful falls were devoured by younger readers, future generations of author-mountaineers were stirred and emboldened to emulate their heroes. So, more climbers and more books. And the shelves are still growing, ever longer and higher, like the ramparts of Everest.

Stephen Venables remembers Kurt Diemberger's *Summits and Secrets* (Hodder & Stoughton, out of print) as the book that sparked his climbing ambitions, when he was just 17. "It is an account of Diemberger's early career, and the writing has a wonderfully youthful and exuberant quality. He rush-

es on from one climb to the next, full of energy and optimism.

"But it was his ascent of the North Face of the Eiger that fired me up. He made a wrong turning up the *Exit Cracks*, and had to retreat again to find the right route.

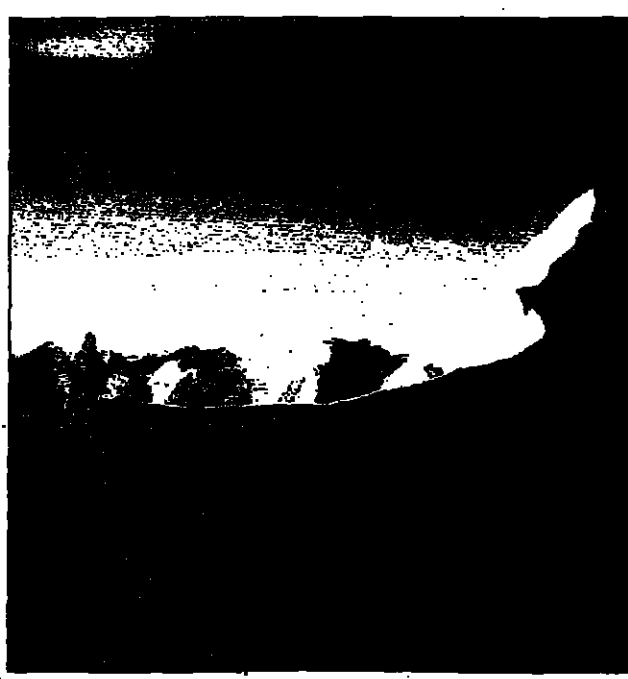
"This was the first book that made me fully aware of the Eiger, although I didn't set foot on it myself for another 15 years. It has that sense of menace and the unknown, the fear and the exhilaration of meeting fear head on, and winning."

Venables found more early inspiration in the older classics of the genre, such as Winthrop Young's *On High Hills: Memories of the Alps* (Methuen, out of print). "He was the last of the Victorian pioneers, and his prose is very stylish and high-faluting. But he makes you laugh all the same."

In Bill Tilman he found an-

other writer who knew how to salt his narrative with wit. "He has a dry-as-dust sense of humour. His first ascent of Nanda Devi, without fixed ropes, was one of the great climbing achievements (H.W. Tilman, *The Seven Mountain Travel Books*, Diadem £18.99) but he pokes gentle fun at his companion Neil Odell all the way up, and then at the summit he writes: 'I believe we so far forgot ourselves as to shake hands.'"

The life of Tilman's famous contemporary Eric Shipton also intrigues Venables. "He is very lucid and likeable on the page - although never as funny as Tilman. But in life he was a bit of misfit, a very single-minded man who followed his own path. He wrote two fine autobiographies; the second, quoting Tennyson in the title, is *That Untravelled World* (Hodder & Stoughton, out of print).



His books, like Tilman's, are not just about climbing."

Many climbers' lives, alas, are too short for the remembrance of things past. Venables regrets the loss of three such men, as writers, and as mountaineers. One is the Scottish doctor Tom Patey, survived by his collected articles in *One Man's Mountains* (£8.99 Canongate).

There's a particularly hilarious account of his climbing the Eiger with Don Whillans. He is taken aback to find an old boot sitting high up on a ledge. Whillans, deadpan, just tells him to have a look inside it.

Patey died in a fall from a sea-stack in 1970. Peter Boardman and Joe Tasker disappeared together in 1982, high on the pinnacles of Everest's North-East Ridge. Tasker was already well-known to his readers, particularly for *Savage Arena* (Methuen £4.95). Board-

man's *Sacred Summits* (on the Boardman-Tasker Omnibus, The Mountaineers Books, USA, US\$35) was published posthumously.

In a single year, Boardman climbed on Carstensz Pyramid in New Guinea, did the third ascent of Kanchenjunga, and then the first ascent of the South Summit of Gauri Shankar. But somewhere in all the thrill and action and onward movement, there is a fine and contemplative writer.

Venables makes no claims to literature for his last selection - Chris Bonington's *I Chose To Climb* (Gollancz £5.99). If not very profound, it is a very readable and fluent account of the author's early climbs, and of his first visit to the Alps.

He talks a lot about himself, but is honest about his young self - an ambitious, pushy climber. And he has a great feeling for the tactile qualities of the

mountains he meets. "Big hills are, after all, the real heroes of climbing books. Mountaineers write books because they have experienced something special and cathartic. High mountains touch them deeply, and they are always struggling to put some of this across. What all these books bring is a sense of epic scale, of immense distances, and secrets lying over the horizon."

Stephen Venables' account of his own Everest ascent in 1988 has recently been republished as *Everest - Alone At The Summit* (Odyssey Books £12.99). Venables will be returning to the mountain this autumn, leading an anniversary trek to the Kangshun Face base camp. Many of these titles can be found at the Internet bookshop, Mountain Books at [www.khaya.co.uk/Mountain-books/](http://www.khaya.co.uk/Mountain-books/)

Interview by  
WILLIAM GREEN

# Where there's a quill there's a way

A recent rich find of dinosaur fossils in China is casting new, if confusing, light on the evolution of flight. By Pat Shipman

**PALAEONTOLOGISTS**, who study fossils for a living, have got into an unseemly flap over the discovery of six stunning specimens of early bird-like dinosaurs from Sihetun in China. These fossils, which went on public display in Washington DC this week, hold the key to one of the biggest mysteries in evolution – how did birds take to the air and fly?

Despite years of study, the questions seem as insurmountable as ever.

• Did birds conquer the air from the ground up or the trees down?

• How could flight evolve at all, since half-flying is obviously dangerous?

• What good is part of a wing or a single feather?

• Are birds simply advanced dinosaurs who took to the skies – or are they descendants of some earlier, more general reptile?

Controversies began in 1861, when the first fossil skeleton of *Archaeopteryx* was discovered in the Solnhofen limestone of Germany two years after Charles Darwin published *Origin of Species*. This gorgeous half-bird, half-reptile is 150 million years old and yet has feathered wings, the *sine qua non* of birds.

The feathers themselves have a modern structure, with a quill or rachis dividing the feather into two unequal vanes for aerodynamic efficiency. But *Archaeopteryx* is not wholly bird-like; it has three wickedly clawed fingers on each wing, a long, bony, reptilian tail, toothy jaws, and reptilian shoulders that could not flap its wings in a modern fashion.

Dozens of studies have focused on the seven known partial skeletons of *Archaeopteryx*; dozens of clever scientists have theorized, argued, and theorized yet again about how bird flight evolved. The Solnhofen site has been key because of the extraordinary preservation of its fossils. Not only is there *Archaeopteryx*, there are beetles, fish, crabs, dragonflies, jellyfish, crocodiles, plesiosaurs, small dinosaurs, pterodactyls complete with impressions of their skin wings, many kinds of plants, leaves, ferns, and succulents, and much more. Solnhofen is the clearest window we have into the world of 150 million years ago.

Now Sihetun, a site in Liaoning province in northeastern China, is beginning to rival Solnhofen in importance. The Sihetun fossils are older than 120 million years (not as ancient as Solnhofen's fossils) but they have proven as pivotal to the debates.



An artist's impression of *Confuciusornis sanctus*, the "sacred Confucius bird"

Sano Kazuhiko/Scientific American

The Sihetun frenzy began in 1994, when a peasant farmer discovered a beautifully preserved fossil bird. Called *Confuciusornis sanctus* – the sacred Confucius-bird – this specimen has small feathered wings, the earliest known beak, and a pygostyle (the reduced bony tail of

modern birds). *Confuciusornis* flew much more adeptly than *Archaeopteryx* and, like many modern birds and some dinosaurs, nested in colonies. Male specimens show a pair of elongated tail feathers, fabulous equipment for serial mating displays. But *Confuciusornis* still

has clawed fingers on each feathered "hand" and other archaic features. In 1996, Sihetun fossils really shook things up in the scientific world. That year saw the discovery of the first "feathered dinosaur" specimen, *Sinosauropteryx prima* ("first Chinese dinosaur-wing") was

a small (one metre long), fast, two-legged theropod dinosaur. Inside the rib cage of one specimen is a pair of eggs, ready for laying; in the stomach of another are the bony remains of a small mammal, its last meal. And there were feather-like fibres or bristles of some kind running along

its spine from nose to tail, and probably down its body, arms and legs.

When this find was first announced, scientists who believe birds are simply evolved dinosaurs crowed loudly that the debate was over. If dinosaurs and birds were the only two feathered creatures – out of all the animals past and present known in the world – there was an obvious evolutionary link between them.

But other scientists, those who believe in the structure of feathers. The scientists who reject the clustering of birds with dinosaurs were delighted to see their opponents with egg on their faces.

What were these fibres for if they are not true feathers? They may be forerunners of flight feathers or they may have evolved as insulation, to keep the little dinosaur suitably warm or cool.

Thermoregulation is an essential part of the hot-blooded metabolism of birds or mammals. Since flying is an incredibly expensive way to get around the world, it is tempting to think that bird ancestors must have had a fast, hot-blooded metabolism in place before beginning to evolve flight.

If these fibres insulated *Sinosauropteryx*, they are one more piece of evidence that birds are really evolved dinosaurs. If they are something else – like the deteriorated remains of skin folds, similar to those found on living lizards – they imply only that birds are descended from reptiles. Finding *Sinosauropteryx* provoked a lot of squawking but little resolution.

Last year, scientific feathers were ruffled again by another remarkable dinosaur from Sihetun, *Protarchaeopteryx robusta*. Its name gives the story away: this fossil looks like a good ancestor for *Archaeopteryx*, even though it is not ancient enough to be its actual ancestor.

*Protarchaeopteryx* is the size of a turkey with big legs and true feathers on its hands, body, and tail. The feathers on the arms and hands are too few and too short to be functional wings and they are symmetrical, not aerodynamic, like feathers of flight-like birds.

Are these primitive feathers, persisting in bird-like dinosaurs long after *Archaeopteryx* had already evolved aerodynamic flight feathers? Or are they degenerate flight feathers? How can we decide?

The latest fossil find from Sihetun is another dinosaur, an enigma named *Caudipteryx zoui* (Zou's tail-feather). About the size of Prot-

*archaeopteryx*, *Caudipteryx* is covered in symmetrical feathers, with a striking fan of plumes arising from its bony tail.

Metaphorically, *Caudipteryx* is poised between the truly bird-like *Archaeopteryx* and the more dinosaur-like *Protarchaeopteryx*. It has wings that are too small to propel such a large animal through the air. It also has teeth and a bony tail which is short for a dinosaur, long for a bird.

All of the Sihetun fossils are too recent to be ancestral to *Archaeopteryx* and later birds. Still, looking at the fossils from Sihetun is like looking through a kaleidoscope. These fossils blur the hard-and-fast distinctions between birds and dinosaurs; they rearrange the categories in our minds. It is as if all of the elements of birds and dinosaurs were fractured, shuffled, and re-assembled according to the throw of a pair of primordial dice.

So far, ancient Sihetun has shown us a true bird with elaborate tail plumes (*Confuciusornis*), an extremely primitive bird-like dinosaur with feathers but no ability to fly (*Protarchaeopteryx*), another even more bird-like feathered dinosaur with useless wings (*Caudipteryx*), and a small, running dinosaur with fibres that might be insulation (*Sinosauropteryx*). What a bewildering array of possibilities.

Do we know yet if birds are simply evolved dinosaurs? No, but the links grow daily more convincing, as more and more dinosaurs with feathers are found.

Do we know if feathers evolved for thermoregulation rather than for flight? No. The oldest feather (on *Archaeopteryx*) is unquestionably a flight feather. The Sihetun feathers include flight feathers, feathers like those on flightless birds, and (maybe) down-like insulation.

These finds hint that the function of half a wing or a single feather may have more to do with controlling body temperature than flying, but they do not show us the very beginning of the story.

Do we know if flight evolved from the ground up or the trees down? No, again. But the more we find small, running, earthbound dinosaurs that look like birds, the more probable the "ground up" hypothesis becomes. Sihetun promises a nestful of surprising discoveries but the questions still hatch faster than the answers.

Pat Shipman is an anthropologist at Penn State University. Her latest book, *Taking Wing* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20), is published this month.

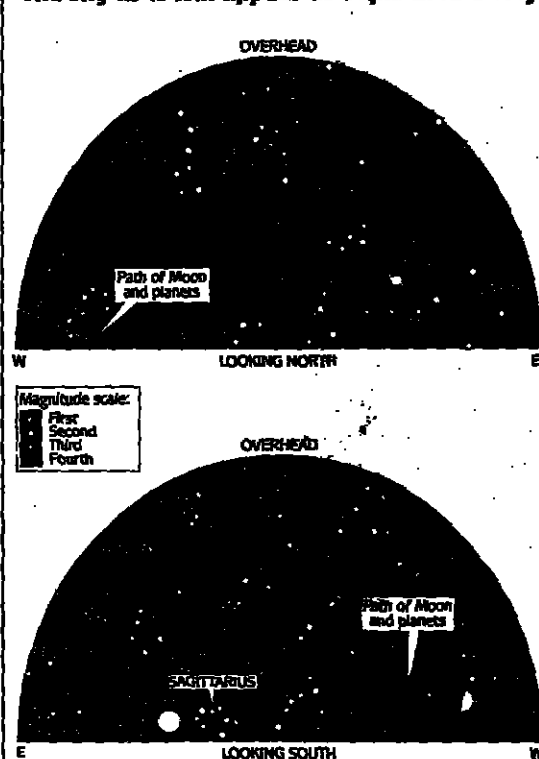
## STARS AND PLANETS: JULY

**MIDSUMMER'S DAY** has focused attention on our local star – and whether you're a druid or a Wimbledon fan, you can't ignore it. But how well do we understand the Sun? Its brilliant but bland surface has long hidden its secrets. In the past couple of years, astronomers have begun to understand what makes the Sun tick – and explode – thanks to the ever-vigilant satellite SOHO, the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory. This joint mission of ESA and NASA was launched in 1995.

SOHO's specialised telescopes observe the Sun's faint outer atmosphere, the corona. They have followed its ever-changing shape, and revealed huge sections of it lifting off the Sun altogether, and blasting outwards into space. These "coronal mass ejections" rank among the mightiest of the Sun's storms, and are probably responsible for some of the worst damage the Sun has inflicted on the Earth – disabling satellites in orbit and causing extensive power cuts.

One of the biggest mysteries about the corona is why it is hundreds of times hotter than the Sun's surface. Now SOHO may have found the answer: a constantly moving "magnetic carpet" at the corona's base. Innumerable thin loops of magnetic flux appear through the Sun's surface, move, break up, and disappear again in millions of continuous short-circuits. In one day, these titanic sparks release as much energy as the United

The sky as it will appear at 11pm in mid-July



States consumes in 100 years – more than enough to heat the Sun's corona to a million degrees.

Magnetism is the driving force behind the Sun's "weather". Its most obvious manifestation is a rash of dark spots on the Sun's surface, each up to 100,000 miles across.

If you could stand on a sunspot and look up into the Sun's atmosphere, you'd see that it is at the

base of a towering edifice of magnetism – an "active region". Hot gases trace the structure of this magnetic tower. The most violent goings-on take place at the top of the active region. Here, in the corona, vast magnetic loops are carrying millions of amperes of current. They suddenly connect and short-circuit, in the most explosive outbursts in the Solar System. These solar

flares blast highly energetic particles, X-rays and gamma rays into space.

In the last month, news has emerged that flares have a profound effect on the Sun itself. Just as the blast from a rocket engine exacts its toll on the launch pad, so the backlash from a flare strikes back at the Sun – to cause sunquakes. This discovery, made by the SOHO satellite working with another satellite sensitive to gamma rays, puts earthquakes firmly in the shade. A recent flare-triggered sunquake was 40,000 times more powerful than the earthquake that devastated San Francisco in 1906. The flare raised seismic waves two miles high, which travelled at 250,000 miles an hour across the surface. The sound of the quake on the Sun must have been awesome.

### What's up

With the exception of Mercury, which is visible for about an hour after sunset early in the month, all the planets are congregating in the morning sky. Jupiter and Saturn both put in an appearance just after midnight. Venus – currently a brilliant "morning star" – now rises two hours before the Sun at about 3am, followed by Mars at 4am. Unusually – because of the way the Moon's cycle falls this month – there are five, rather than four, Moon phases this July.

HEATHER COOPER  
AND NIGEL HENBEST

DIARY		
1st	7.42pm BST	Moon at first quarter.
4th		Earth at aphelion (furthest distance from Sun: 152m km).
9th	5.01pm	Full Moon.
16th	4.14pm	Moon at last quarter.
23rd	2.44pm	New Moon.
31st	1.05pm	Moon at first quarter.

## Understanding Hawking

### THE TRUTH ABOUT... SPEECH SYNTHESIZERS

STEPHEN HAWKING, it is reported, is considering replacing his "android" voice synthesizer with one made by British Telecom which offers an English accent. It is a sign of how quickly computers are moving that such a change seems overdue. But synthesizing speech entirely through a computer rather than, as railway timetables do, generating sentences by stringing together pre-recorded individual words is not a new phenomenon.

The first attempts were made at the laboratories of Bell, the telephone company. In 1936, a Bell Labs scientist, H W Dudley, invented the world's first electronic speech synthesizer: it required an operator with a keyboard and foot pedals to supply "prosody" – the pitch, timing, and intensity of speech. Dudley called his device the "voice coder", though it quickly became known simply as "Voder", and it proved a hit at the New York and San Francisco World's Fairs of 1939.

The problem was the human interaction required. Ideally, one would just give the machine (nowadays, computer) a stream of text which it would render into speech.

Generating sounds is not a problem for computers. Synthesizers have changed the face of popular music. By powering a speaker with a stream of electronic pulses of varying amplitude, they can mimic all sorts of instruments. Generating a human voice is the same task – but language adds complexities of pronunciation and, for the computer, comprehension of what it is reading.

Computers typically generate speech using combinations of "phonemes", the individual sounds within words. The word "phoneme" consists of two syllables, but four phonemes, "ph", "o", "nm" and "em". English has 43 phonemes in all.



Stephen Hawking might prefer an English accent

Phonemes are easy to digitise, but it turns out that making recognisable speech from them is harder. The "transition" where one phoneme (say, "ph") slides into the next (say, "o") is difficult to do with a computer, and it is actually simpler to digitise the phonemes and their

transitions, and split them halfway through each phoneme. This produces about 400 transition-phoneme pieces like Lego bricks, which can be spliced together for seamless speech. Add the phonemes that start words, and you can produce any word from that library.

An accent is produced by variations in the phonemes and transitions, both in their pitch and speed: the American "tomato" and the English "tomahito" are one example.

All that is the easy part, though. Turning text into speech also requires analysis of the sentence being spoken, or meaning can be lost: "I'm so pleased to see you" could be read many ways, depending on whether the speaker is so pleased, pleased to see, or see you. Incorporating inflection, pauses and emphasis into computer-generated speech remains the big problem, which scientists are still struggling to overcome.

CHARLES ARTHUR

### UPDATE

SHORT-TERM and long-term memories are distinctly different states of mind, a finding that raises the prospect of developing smart drugs to help victims of senile dementia.

Remembering events over a short period of time involves quite separate chemistry in the brain to that needed for storing long-term memory, according to a study by a Brazilian team of scientists led by Ivan Izquierdo, a neuroscientist from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul.

In experiments on lab animals the researchers were able to block short-term memory with drugs that had no effect on long-term memory. Scientists want to work out

how short-term memories are transferred into the long-term databanks of the brain in order to develop smart drugs that can help the process.

Professor Steven Rose, a memory researcher at the Open University, who is collaborating with the Brazilian team, said that such drugs will help to improve the lives of Alzheimer's patients in the early stages. "It will not, however, stop the decline as that needs a more fundamental approach," Professor Rose said.

ASTRONOMERS HAVE been surprised to discover that global warming affects Triton, the icy moon of Neptune. Triton

is approaching the position where it is nearest to the Sun, so its nitrogen-rich polar ice fields should evaporate. However, Jim Elliot of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology used the Hubble Space Telescope to show that Triton's atmosphere is warming faster than anyone predicted. This was discovered by studying light from a distant star as Triton passed in front of it – a neat way of measuring temperature without thermometers.

MEANWHILE ANOTHER group of neuroscientists believe they have identified a site in the lower back of the brain that perceives colour. In rare cases,

people lose that ability because of brain damage, so what they see looks similar to the pictures of a black-and-white television.

Researchers have been trying to identify the site within the area of damage that is responsible for colour perception. In the new study, they showed displays of colour and black-and-white images to 13 healthy people while scanning their brains to detect those regions that responded to the colour. The work led them to implicate a small site they call area-V8. The results are reported in the July issue of the journal *Nature Neuroscience* by Dr Nouchine Hadjikhani and colleagues at Massachusetts General Hospital's Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Centre.



# Sober, but still sensational

She's been branded an exhibitionist and a drunkard, but Tracey Emin's early paintings reveal a more solemn nature. Michael Glover stumbled across the evidence

It was towards the end of a sun-struck afternoon in a garden, a few minutes from the Brecon Beacons, and I was standing in the attic studio of the painter, Robert McDonald. A major retrospective of his work had just closed at the Brecon Museum, and he was showing me a selection from some of the stages of his development. McDonald the young splatter-painter under the jazz influence of abstract expressionism; McDonald the print-making interpreter of Aboriginal myth; McDonald, the quiet painter of rural scenes somewhat in the tender, naive manner of David Jones or even Dufrenoy.

Can you guess who this one's by? he said, pulling something quite different from another portfolio. I couldn't. It was a print of an urban harbour scene, with boats coming and going, executed in graphite and painted over in gouache or watercolour; vigorous, expressive, fanciful, with great boldness and panache. A very fluid, painterly sort of painting. Its title, written in pencil, said: "Istanbul", and you could easily recognise certain details. The date was 1989.

The painter? Tracey Emin. I told him that this was so different from the Tracey Emin of popular myth: the Tracey Emin who had rolled on drunk during last year's Turner Prize discussion and, with a ferocious wag of her finger, slapped off one and all; the Tracey Emin whose seemingly insatiable appetite for self-promotion had led her to present the most intimate details of her private life as gifts to the nation. Could this painting be by one and the same person?

Then he showed me others from slightly earlier – small woodcuts and linocuts, all gloom and pessimism, heavily influenced by Klimt, Munch, Kirchner and other German Expressionists; a larger hand-coloured woodcut printed on the linen and stretched between two pieces of crudely carved wood called "The Black Horse". Almost all of them were signed in the same way: "Miss T K Emin". How had he come by them?

In 1984 McDonald was a part-time lecturer at Maidstone College of Art, and Emin was one of his BA Fine Art students. She was the most remarkable student he'd ever taught – energetic, enthusiastic, and with a capacity to produce vast quantities of work. She was producing enormous numbers of prints: woodcuts and linocuts by the hundreds, all bleak monotypes, and many with the same stark and obsessive subject matter as the pieces he was now showing me: the female nude, hunched or curled foetus-like, violated. "There was a powerful obsession with death," he commented. "The females always looked brutalised, sexually agonised. In the red linocut that she produced as a poster for a student show, a skeleton sits beside a hunched female figure, leering, mocking, biding its time. Death always has time to spare. This was the linocut that had hung on the office wall during the years of Noel

Her pieces were primarily signed: Miss T K Emin. She was by no means prim in her art or her behaviour, though

Machin, the head of Liberal Studies who had liked and encouraged Emin so much. After his death, it was thrown into a bin because his successor didn't value it. Bob McDonald plucked the treasured thing out again.

All these pieces are signed in that same rather prim way: Miss T K Emin. She was by no means prim in her art or her behaviour, though. The area where she did her work was curtained off to prevent visitors being too shocked by her work. Noel Machin organised talent contests every year. Tracey, already the exhibitionist, would be a star performer, stripping and cowering – the usual art school sort of thing. Machin also encouraged his students to collaborate with poets and musicians. Tracey played a leading role in this too, bringing a jazz

group in, performing poetry, collaborating with Billy Childish and the other Medway poets on books and pamphlets. (Childish's name would find its way embroidered on to the fabric of that famous tent, produced for the Minky Manky Show in 1995, along with the names of 1,001 other gloriously exposed former lovers).

After her graduation from Maidstone, McDonald lost touch with Emin for a while. This was during her post-graduate years at the Royal College of Art – it was McDonald who had encouraged her to apply in the first place. She sent him postcards from her travels, but they didn't meet again until the end of the Eighties. By then, she had a studio in south London. When he visited, he found her poverty-stricken and unwell. He noticed a painting in her studio that was quite different from anything he'd seen before, a cityscape of Istanbul. It was surprisingly colourful – she hadn't generally used colour at Maidstone – and almost celebratory in its atmosphere. The mood of her work at Maidstone had been deeply pessimistic. Could he buy it? She was happy to sell. She needed the money. She suggested some modest amount – perhaps £10. He gave her £100 because he recognised its value immediately. But why Istanbul?

In the intervening years, Tracey Emin had been busy renewing her links with her father's side of the family. She and her father, a Turkish Cypriot, hadn't seen much of each other during her childhood. He'd been kept busy servicing another family, and Tracey was mainly brought up by her mother in Margate.

McDonald then showed me the invitation to a show in 1990, the year of the infamous abortion, the subject of one of her confessional videos. It's a modest thing, hand-written, hand-drawn, on long white sheets of paper. Only the cover has an illustration – the simplest of traced outlines. Indicative, perhaps, of her move away from expressive picture-making. This show took place in the crypt of St George's, Bloomsbury, and its title was "The



As a student, Emin produced a vast portfolio of bleak monotypes depicting brutalised, sexually agonised women

Calling of St Anthony, 1990". Fold it out and you find a long list of hand-written nouns: "Integrity, dignity, humour, teeth, hair, heart, love, temper, grip, white cells, red cells, self-respect, magic, coal, marbles..." Could this mark the beginning of her interest in

incorporating text? At the bottom, directly beneath the list, these words are written (a propos of St Anthony, of course): "The patron Saint of all things lost..." I asked McDonald whether he thought Tracey Emin was herself

something of a lost soul; whether her search for attention had somehow caused her to lose her way. "I didn't like what happened at the Turner Prize-giving, but I don't think that Tracey was entirely to blame for that. The television people must have

known she was drunk – you just had to look at her swivelling eyes to see that – and you could therefore say that they put her into a situation where she became a source of comedy. But Tracey is more than just a freak show. I think at heart she's a serious artist."

## A Russian reformationist, a Gershwin tune...

NICHOLAS KENYON, Controller of Radio 3, has had some hard knocks in recent years, not least in this column, for his network's alleged lurches in the direction of Classic FM. But of at least one innovation he can remain justifiably proud: the Sunday afternoon feature-series, *Spirit of the Age*. For, primarily concerned though the programme may be with early music, it is fascinating how often its investigations throw up cultural, social, political or religious issues of continuing relevance.

Last Sunday's edition, presented by the sophisticated Christopher Page and intelligently produced, as ever, by Kate Bolton, took as its pretext the current exhibition in the Queen's House at Greenwich celebrating the tercentenary of the three-month visit to England in 1698 of the young Peter the Great. Peter's subsequent attempt to Europeanise Russian culture had a particular musical impact: his reforms of the Russian church led to the evolution in the late 18th and early 19th century of that

### ON AIR BAYAN NORTHCOTT

warmly chordal style of Orthodox hymnody which, sung with a generous application of vibrato, has become accepted as the authentic tradition.

What, then, of the religious opponents of Peter's reforms, the so-called Old Believers who, together with an entire earlier tradition of orthodox chant, disappeared "into the

blue beyond", as Page's guest, that eloquent Russophile, Gerard McBurney, put it? Reconstructing such ambiguous notations of that lost tradition has not only proved musically contentious, but it was also discouraged by the Soviets on ideological grounds. In recent years, tentative attempts have been made to perform it, notably by Andrei Kotov's Moscow Siren Choir, currently visiting this country.

Recordings heard during the programme certainly suggested an

early polyphony strikingly independent of Western ideals in its strange parallels and clashes. But, for scholarly reasons, Kotov has also encouraged his singers to adopt a non-vibrato style closer to certain Western early music groups, thus risking the ire of nationalists back home. And so it goes. Indeed, given the complexity of the scholarly, cultural and ideological issues, it is difficult to see how they could have been adequately developed – let alone so lucidly – to perform it, no

tably by Andre in a format any less spacious than *Spirit of the Age*. Yet, with the current Radio 3 mania for "access", one could well imagine the planners hankering to reduce the programme to an early music magazine. This Kenyon should resist.

Curiously, Monday's relay of the Halle Orchestra under Kent Nagano in the on-going *Inventing America* season also touched on matters musicological, with a series of Gershwin show overtures. To what extent these pot-pourris represent-

ed Gershwin's intentions and how much the initiative of his arrangers, is less than clear. Yet the inclusion of a pastiche Gershwin overture for the posthumous show *My One and Only*, put together in the 1980s, strongly suggested that the glamour of those original arrangers is now a lost art. In fact, there were sufficient issues of authenticity here to fill a whole latter-day *Spirit of the Age*. Last week's "On Air" was wrongly credited to Robert Maycock. It was written by Adrian Jack.

## Back-seat writer

IN THE light of the ceaseless flow of personal testimonies, few would be foolish enough to deny that the incidence of incest and child abuse is more widespread than had previously been supposed. Writers have not been slow to seize upon the subject's dramatic potential, but the artistic results have been decidedly mixed. Jane Smiley's *A Thousand Acres* was a strong, subtle book and a sloppy movie while last year Mike Cullen's play *Anna Weiss* was marred by misogyny and a fiercely anti-therapy line.

Like Smiley, Paula Vogel's treatment of the subject, *How I Learned to Drive* arrives in this country garlanded with awards including the Pulitzer prize. With addresses to the audience by the central woman, LBJ Bit, it seems to belong to the

### THEATRE HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE DONMAR WAREHOUSE LONDON

"confessional" school of play-writing. Vogel, however, provides a far stronger structure than usual by coupling LBJ Bit's sexual awakening to the metaphor of driving lessons.

LBJ Bit seeks solace from her redneck family in the company and car of her Uncle Peck, but from John Crowley's strongly staged opening scene it's clear that his interest is far from selfless. The car seats are far apart but, thanks to Paul Pyant's lighting, their shadows meet disturbingly across the back wall. They are clearly some way into an incestuous relation-

ship. Why, when and how did it start? Vogel's non-chronological cross-cutting allows her to examine not only the entire family's role in the act, but, more importantly, LBJ Bit's own choices. It is this deliberate blurring of boundaries and the question of her own complicity which accounts for much of the play's notoriety. Yet for all its seeming openness, Vogel's play has a clearly imposed judgemental line which stifles true dramatic richness.

The most interestingly contradictory and least judgemental writing goes to several of the subsidiary characters, notably those played by Jenny Galloway. Her performance as Peck's wife provides the emotional highlight. Elsewhere, the thinness of the writing and some poor American accents dilute the power of the ideas.

Casting Kevin Whately as Peck must have seemed like a terrific move. Known to millions as Inspector Morse's long-suffering sidekick, he specialises in relaxed, benign warmth but his overwhelming niceness flattens the role out, and in this production Peck lacks necessary edge. That quality, however, dominates Helen McCrory's LBJ Bit. She uses anxious tension to strong effect, notably in the climactic scene where she confronts Peck. Her explosive release seems to vindicate the tension, but elsewhere her fraught physicality is overly demonstrative; in anxiously showing us her character's emotional state she robs us of the opportunity of discerning her difficulties for ourselves. Her hard-won victory provides a triumphant close but you can't escape feeling that you've been spurned.

DAVID BERNEDICT

## Life is sweet

### THEATRE LIFEGAME LYRIC HAMMERSMITH LONDON

IT'S NOT easy to pass final judgement on *Lifegame*. Every night, a different guest is invited to watch and oversee improbable theatre company's instalment, improvised enactment of choice moments from his or her life story. On Wednesday, it was the turn of Joanna Lumley to receive the while-you-wait dramatic treatment. What resulted was a warmhearted affair; by turns boisterously hilarious and gently moving, as her autobiographical reminiscences were vividly staged by seven indisputably talented performers.

Despite the acclaim that improbable's previous shows have met with, *Lifegame* is no dead cert. The format could be described as a cross between *This is Your Life* and *In the Psychiatrist's Chair* genetically modified with grains of *Whose Line is it Anyway?*

Getting Ms Lumley on board was undoubtedly a coup, not just because of the lure of celebrity but because she is articulate, candid and possessed of enough anecdotal material to furnish an entire run. And this show clearly needs idiosyncratic input to thrive.

Initially, it all seemed irredeemably cringemaking – like an idealised rehearsal-in-progress (the show is based on workshops run by the improvisation guru Keith Johnstone). As questionmaster, improbable's artistic director Phelim McDermott came over like an overearnest vicar at a tea party, requesting Lumley's "philosophy", which she gave as "life is wonderful and unexpected" – therapy-speak that was reverentially scrawled on to a blackboard. The company grinned approvingly like brainwashed members of a cult. Their initial tableau, evoking her earliest

memory of gazing at trees in Kashmir, stalled immediately. But with her exotic Far East childhood and wilful, pony-loving character, the sheer force of the Lumley personality began to infect the acting area and particularly Stella Duffy who had been chosen to play her. Before we knew it we were being whisked headlong into her nascent consciousness: imagining her mother and father's first meeting; joining her at table with all the family; sharing her days at boarding school (a mini-puppet show conveyed a teacher's closet ballet dance). With a mock-delicacy that admitted the approximate nature of impro, the actors went on to tackle her first crush (rendered as a Shakespearean pastiche) and her first love, transformed into a musical number.

If anyone had come hoping for gossip about the *New Avengers* or *Ab Fab*, they would have been disappointed (though the ghost of a Patsy leered appeared frequently). That Lumley is a star became irrelevant: she even admitted to being unfulfilled as an actress, hankering after the life of a linguist. We left her "on a high bright hill" (well, atop a ladder) smoking, drinking and defying death. If every performance of *Lifegame* is as memorable as this, improbable will probably last a very long while themselves.

Booking: 0181-741 2311. To Saturday. This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

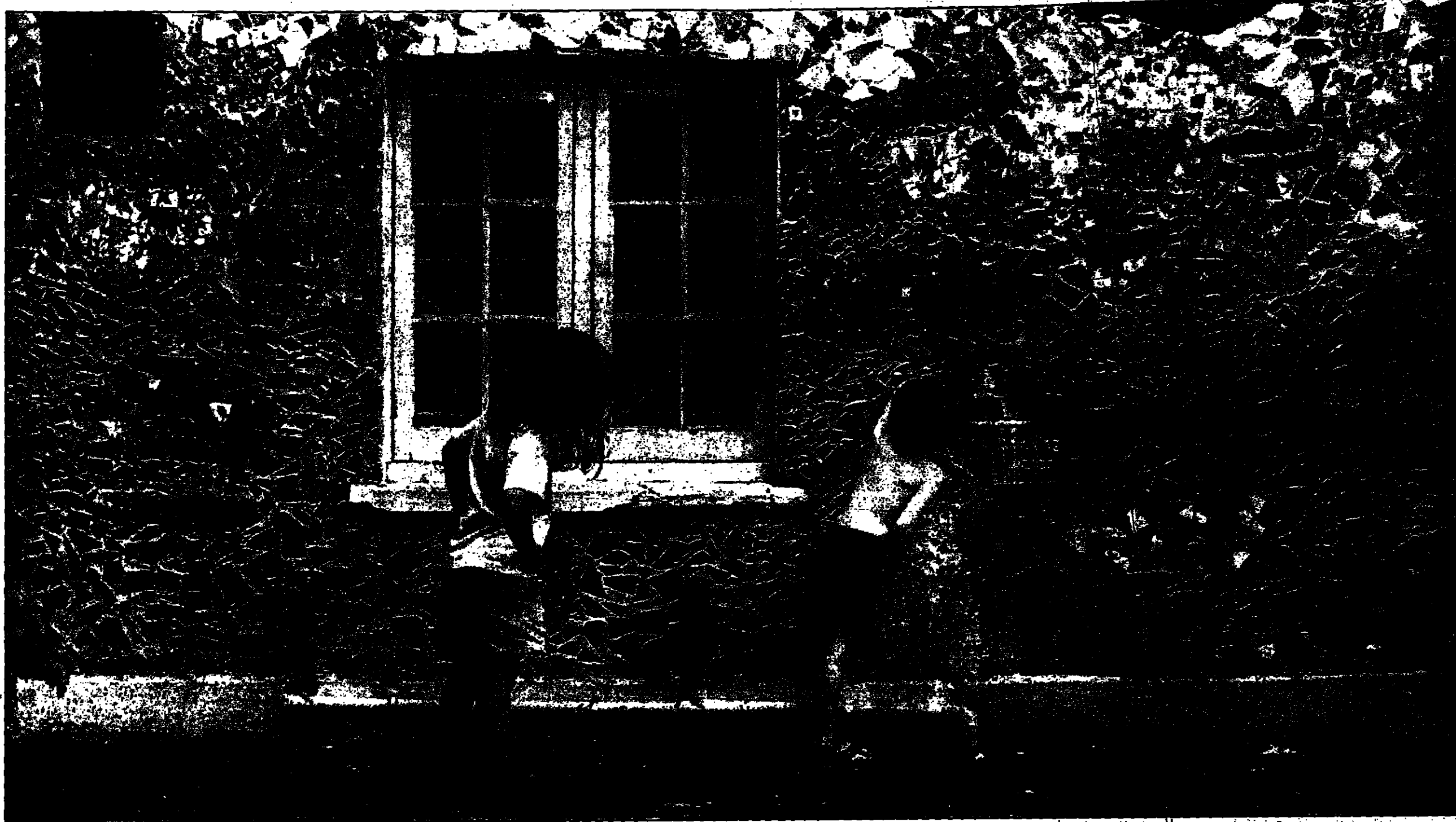
DOMINIC CAVENTISH

## THE PERFECT MATCH AND NOT A FOOTBALL IN SIGHT



## GWYNETH PALTROW SLIDING DOORS

DOORS STILL OPEN



## Little by little, piece by piece

Close by the design monstrosity that is the Elephant and Castle shopping centre, the Only Connect project has enabled young people with severe learning disabilities to conjure a mosaic wonderworld out of dereliction. By Daniel Sturgis

**B**eyond the hideous pink facade of the Elephant and Castle, enveloped in a not-so-pall of south London exhaust fumes, lies a wonderful mosaic garden. Created out of the land that lies behind a row of Georgian houses, the garden is part of Cambridge House, a voluntary sector organisation set up over a century ago to alleviate the effects of poverty in Southwark and which nowadays offers a variety of services ranging from legal aid and a youth centre to groups for people with learning disabilities, social events and council meetings.

The once desolate and abandoned garden has been brilliantly brought back to life with a 50-foot mosaic depicting an underwater world. Coloured fish leap from mirrored waves on the walls. An octopus sculpture forms a mosaic rockery in one corner, while a seven-foot starfish adorns another. The combination of deep sea blues and sparkling mirrors creates a small oasis

of calm and tranquillity in this busy inner-city area.

Over 400 people a week use Cambridge House and wander through the garden. The mosaic is admired not only for its beautiful designs but also because of its history. It was created entirely by people with severe learning disabilities under the aegis of Only Connect, one of Cambridge House's projects. Only Connect works to promote equal opportunities for people with Down's syndrome, autism, fragile-X syndrome and other severe learning disabilities. Its projects all have a dual focus: they provide a safe and exciting forum for play, education, art or sport activities, and also offering a respite for the parents and carers of people with severe learning disabilities. Other activities include holiday play schemes, after school clubs, weekend breakaways, and life skills workshops.

The mosaic garden project involved 75 children and young people with severe learning disabilities working alongside artists and volunteers trained by Only Con-



The mosaics of underwater scenes and creatures have transformed the formerly desolate garden of Cambridge House  
Glynis Griffiths

nect to enable and support them. Creative art provides a vital means of communication for people who may have limited speech and find everyday self-expression difficult.

It is a challenging but extremely rewarding process. The aim is to help individuals to express their own ideas, and the mosaic garden at Cambridge House reflects this way of working. It can be seen as a single image or a composite of many different pictures. Each participant's individual contribution can be identified: the placing of a tile, the exploration of a colour scheme, a pattern created from a particular design.

Only Connect always ensures that its arts workshops are well-resourced, and that the people taking part have an opportunity to work with high-quality materials and equipment. The garden project showed participants how sketches could lead to a finished design, how to use specialist tools like tile cutters and electric drills, and how to lay the mosaic and mix

the cement adhesive. Italian glass mosaic tiles and domestic ceramic tiles were used; much of this material was donated by London's specialist tile shops.

The garden project was awarded a Shell Better Britain Award, and financed through a variety of small trusts and charities. It succeeds due to its vision and ambition: it celebrates the fact that people with learning disabilities make a valuable contribution to our way of life, and challenges the view that they are a burden on society.

Only Connect runs regular Art & Design Curriculum Support workshops at special schools supported by the London Borough of Southwark, and is committed to the use of art both as a means of expression for people with learning disabilities and as an aesthetic contribution to the wider community.

If you would like to volunteer or find out more about the work of Only Connect or Cambridge House please contact them on 0171-703 5025

## Darling, how utterly Yang

E Jane Dickson marvels at the mysteries of lifestyle magazines

CHUCK OUT your chintz. Bin your Bonetti. And you know what you can do with your *Sotsass*. Le dernier cri in interior decorating, the cynosure of all sophisticates, is an arrangement of pigs' mandibles and fish-bones slung from your roof-pole.

It's true. I read it in *nest*, the US monthly almanac of style which has just hit British newsstands.

Alongside articles on Keith Haring's mural of "iconic dicks", the demented dabblings of The Marquess of Bath (comic breasts, mainly) and a painfully po-faced "appreciation" of Barbie's 1962 Dream House, the tree dwellings of the Asmat tribe of Indonesian New Guinea are described in breathless, estate-agent's prose: "The tree houses of Amarou and Mibanzwein," we are told, "are small but seemingly more spacious thanks to the splinters of light that radiate inward, not just through the thatched roof and bark walls but also from below through the gaps in the floor..." but before you take a hatchet to your parquet, please be advised that *nest* is not intended as a yet another interiors magazine, but as "a magazine of interiors" and that *nest* wants to be read by anyone who wakes up in the morning or in the afternoon with a healthy curiosity about how others express themselves where they live."

Well strike me pink (the new black, don't you know). For someone who wakes up with a healthy curiosity as to where my shoes are in the deep litter that surrounds me, I can only look at home-style magazines - the fastest growing sector of print journalism - as a cow might gaze at the moon. Who are these people who can write in *Elle Decoration* that "the secret of modern living is in good cupboards" and mean it?

I am intrigued to learn from the same publication that black grass (£7.95 a root) is the only grass to be seen with (what are they going to do with all the green stuff), scared by the revelation that storage guru Dawn

Walters "styles" her house every night, and cheered by the return of stone-cladding. It's true! The favoured style statement of Jack and Vera Duckworth is back, but this time it's dead classy.

And why, when you think about it, shouldn't it be? Someone must have liked it the first time around, and, as the must-rooming style-mag market shows, we now aspire to change our sofas as often as our socks, with the Conran shop bringing out a twice-yearly "collection" of "must-have pieces". For it is style journalists who feed the beast, setting trends one month and stamping on them the next.

Not so, says *Living* etc. a newcomer to the middle market, lifestyle magazines might have made the buying public more aware of design in recent years, but at the end of the day, it is the consumer who chooses what to buy. *Living* etc. to be fair keeps one foot firmly on the ground, with its policy of photographing "real people in real homes".

Condé Nast's *World of Interiors*, on the other hand is the Alan Clark of the style mags, not for people who buy their own sink units. The current issue contains a spirited defence of the Lord Chancellor's renovations and a guide to the latest ceramic garden stools.

Inspiration and aspiration are the watchwords here, but even *World of Interiors* will make sure there is something for the little people in each issue.

Wallpaper, on the other hand, throws no sop to democracy. This is the magazine that would rather stand than sit on an IKEA bean bag. The nearest it comes to a practical suggestion this month (admittedly a dedicated travel issue) is the drawing observation that since "modern nomads" are never at home, it seems pointless to own one. Why not design a hotel room to your own specification and have it replicated in every city you visit? And please don't let yourself down by talking about the kind of bedspread or duvet you want, the only thing to have these days is - God help us - a bed-scurf.

Finally, once you've hung laminated rose petals at your window as a twist on the beaded curtain, and trundled to the shop with your perfumed candles, you'll be needing *Feng Shui for Modern Living* magazine to make sure that your carefully edited objects are auspiciously disposed about your home. One false move, apparently, and your chi'll fly straight out the window. Post-ironic retro-chic be damned, I predict that by the autumn, the compliment every hostess will crave will be "But darling, how utterly Yang!"

### THE TASTE DICTATORS

WORDS FROM THE WISE



**ELLE DECO:**  
"The naked light bulb swings again. We predict the renaissance of our filamented friend"



**WALLPAPER:**  
"Carpets are unhygienic. More hotel rooms should have wooden floors"



**WORLD OF INTERIORS:**  
"Banish all that is sad and sombre from your interior"



**NEST:**  
"Rums of horse-heads sprouting vegetable head-dresses hint at a bizarre union of natural kingdoms"



**FENG SHUI FOR MODERN LIVING:**  
"Try draped curtains in Yin hues of porcelain green..."

### THE MILLENNIUM COLLECTION

NO 2: 'REVEAL' SURGICAL GLOVES  
DESIGNED BY BIOGEL



So far, over 200 Millennium Products have been chosen for their excellent design. Each week we will examine one of them.

A GAME with a couple of party balloons has led to the development of a product that could save the lives of hospital patients and, potentially, their doctors, too.

Pam and Phil Richardson, a former nurse and former university lecturer from Wales, have come up with a simple innovation to make surgical gloves change colour when punctured.

A glove punctured during an operation by a slip of the scalpel poses risks of cross-infection to both patient and doctor.

Surgeons who are carriers of hepatitis have infected

patients in this way, though rules require that they be vaccinated against it and, in one case, a patient in France was infected with HIV by a surgeon carrying the virus.

Surgeons are in turn at risk of being infected themselves if blood from the patient seeps into their wound.

The new surgical gloves, called Reveal, are made by Biogel. They consist of two layers of latex. The top outer layer is transparent and the inner layer is green. If the top layer is punctured, liquid is drawn between the layers by capillary action revealing the green layer beneath like a spreading stain.

As soon as this appears, the surgeon can request new gloves. Sensitivity is

maintained by the double-layer.

Pam Richardson said: "It's an incredibly simple idea that you can demonstrate at a party with two balloons. Indeed, we discovered the principle when experimenting with toy balloons. It was then we realised its potential for surgery."

The Richardsons have found thinking up ideas in their Welsh cottage a lucrative hobby. They have patented the same system as a mail security device to indicate whether a package has been tampered with. If the material in which the package is wrapped is punctured, allowing air between the layers, it immediately changes colour.

JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH EDITOR



Surrounded by massive resin heads, Jacobean jewels and a six-foot glass unicorn horn, a south London sculptress has created something rich and strange. By Philip Hoare

# Oriel the wizard of Walworth

Deep in darkest Walworth, beyond even the now departed glamour of the Labour Party headquarters, a lock-up shed with a corrugated roof hides the creation of fantastic things. Amid mugs of tea and a TV blaring *Home and Away*, resin branches are sprouting surreally from ridged trunk-like bases into efflorescent twigs; composite androgynous heads stand in rows, flames or feathers shooting from their tresses like baroque toques; and, in one corner of Oriel Harwood's studio-workshop, rises a six-foot-high clay model of a unicorn's horn, now cast in clear glass and about to grace some lucky new owner's domicile. The place is a childhood fantasy in progress, Dungeons and Dragons crossed with a John Galiano catwalk.

These audacious pieces – neither furniture nor ornamentation, but something in between – are not made for meek persons or clinically-Nineties interiors. They are heroic, flamboyant, unashamedly ostentatious outpourings from the creative mind of Harwood, some 15 years in the business of recreating her fantasies.

Two years ago Harwood and her partner, Stephen Calloway – he of the mid-Victorian dress sense and waxed moustaches – found two 1790 houses which had long languished as offices of a taxi firm. Calloway approached the owners and asked if they were willing to sell. The result was that the pair acquired 20 rooms, three workshops, a courtyard, and a marvellous view of one of Raltrack's less busy south London lines. Now the courtyard sprouts lilac in tubs, purple clematis jackmannii on the walls and classical acanthus by the kitchen door, while across the way the workshop is home to Oriel Harwood's cottage industry.

Strewn around this mini-estate carcasses of resin forms lie about tantalisingly bubble-wrapped ready for assembly in some new home: horned candlesticks seemingly raided from an Assyrian tomb; blank-eyed "Tesla" heads, apparent escapes from Sir John Soane's Lincoln's Inn house; chandeliers of branches and thick oak leaves moulded over frosted glass. It is an Aladdin's Cave of art-in-progress.

Having trained at Middlesex as a potter, Harwood graduated in 1982, producing at her degree show a vivid primary-coloured glazed ceramic fireplace and glistening candelabra fashioned from serpents. "And I hadn't even seen Brighton Pavilion at that point," says Oriel, whose name is as baroque as her pieces. A Crafts Council grant helped her set up a workshop in 1984, and she had her first one-woman show, Architectural Ceramics, at Burgh House, Hampstead, which announced her intention to blur the edges between architecture and applied art.

Since then her work has mutated through a series of phases: 1980s baroque to "tulipomania" Delft-inspired oversized ceramic vases constructed to hold single tulip blooms in serrated ranks. As these creations were featured in all manner of glossy magazine spreads, Harwood felt herself in danger of becoming typecast in an "Aren't they jolly?" mug-and-headscarf cliché. Instead, fate in the form of a burglary in the late Eighties sent Harwood's work through a darker phase: Jacobean jewel motifs, darkly lustrous and spiky; and punk goth baroque which she likens to a film set for *The Avengers*. It was her first collection for a dealer, and Harwood was mortified when none of it sold: "I wished a rock star would buy it."



No shrinking violet – ostentatious designer Oriel Harwood stands out amongst some of her larger than life bizarre and baroque creations

Glynn Griffiths

Instead she got a commission from Nigel Coates of Coates-Branson to decorate the interior of a clubroom in Tokyo. The brief was golf and Scots Baronial: Oriel's witty reaction was to construct a fantastical fireplace with golfball and thistle motifs and a tartan glaze. The photograph of the piece in situ – a dark den within a startlingly modern exterior – looks subversively decadent for a golf club. Another room commission for a restored country house involved Strawberry Hill gothic plaster branches creeping their way up the walls and along the ceilings. "It took a thousand screws to fix them up," says Harwood, who privately imagines all sorts of disasters and confesses to breezily telling owners, "Oh, it'll be no problem."

It vexes her that despite 15 years of considerable work, her name is not yet recognised in the business. She despairs of getting a big commission. And yet her work is gradually moving out over the world. She now sells through David Gill, whose "very Catholic tastes" encompass the 20th cen-

tury rococo/baroque/neoclassical influences on which Harwood's work draws, along with more modernist influences. He is in the process of opening a warehouse-style showroom in Vauxhall, a massive white space which will provide a Saatchi-like setting for Harwood's work.

The scale and extravagance of her designs make them eminently suitable for movie sets, and she has already ventured into film work: Cruella de Ville's bedroom in the recent remake of *101 Dalmatians* was entirely based on her designs. Her neoclassical heads are also currently being installed in Christian Dior shops world-wide.

Fey her art may seem; its construction is not. Her dusty and overstuffed studio looks like a cross between a car bodyshop and a stonemason's. Her work has become refined in its very surface: the clay models are now gouged with naturalistic channels, inspired by close-up photographs of vegetative forms. Her art is growing into something feral and neo-romantic. It is both

*Her dusty and overstuffed studio looks like a cross between a car bodyshop and a stonemason's*

European and English, fantastic and surreal, and comes from a covert culture of excess, the aesthete's aesthetic offensive, flying in the face of what is considered "good taste" in an expression of flagrant escapism.

It follows a "secret history" of taste which draws on notions of otherness, a family tree of flamboyance from the 18th-century Gothic of Walpole's Strawberry Hill and Beckford's Fonthill to Wilde's "house beautiful" and Beardsley's black-and-red painted Pimlico drawing room; from Rob-

bie Ross's Half Moon Street rooms painted "dull gold" in 1917 as a protest against the war to the Sitwells ("big heroes", says Oriel) and their Carlyle Square dining room, where green walls and grotto furniture gave visitors the feeling of being under water. Indeed, Calloway has already chronicled the style (renamed "bugger's baroque" by some 1930s wit) in his magisterial tome, *Baroque Baroque*.

Modern supremos of "good taste" are anathema to Oriel and she despairs of the modern dictatorship of interiors. "I get enormously furious about Conran's influence – we're stuck with it because he has such financial clout". In the face of such cultural diktats, her declared fantasy – "I want to live in a Sicilian palace" – is tantamount to subversion, and room by room, floor by floor, the couple appear to be creating her dream. Their top-floor suites are already under way: Oriel's canary yellow and gold – "an Indian theme" – with an oval bathroom laid with bronze mosaic; Calloway's twin dark green and already spot-

ted with archival prints of 18th-century *marvelleuses and incroyables*.

Harwood's relationship with Calloway – they met 11 years ago, and married soon after – is a battle of styles. Calloway, the performing dandy *flâneur*, documents the taste which his wife is recreating in rather more extreme manifestations. "Stephen is not adverse to the pastiche heritage stuff. I balk at that... being that obvious. If Stephen suggests something I do exactly the opposite... we're happily at war!"

They are quite contrary creatures in their way: friends talk of wild parties in Walworth at which their host will be found attired in frockcoat and patent shoes, while his wife will be the party discoqueen. Next year the pair intend to throw the definitive hedonistic millennium party. The home boys of Walworth won't know what's hit them.

Philip Hoare's latest book, *Wilde's Last Stand: decadence, conspiracy and the First World War*, has just been published in paperback by Duckworth, £11.95



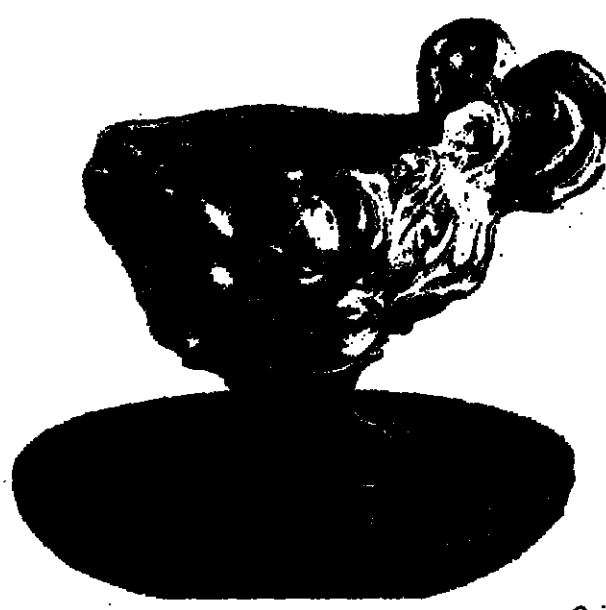
Mustafa cup and saucer, £25



Candlestick, £58



Bronze Antler fire dog, £1250 a pair



Cloud cup and saucer, £85



Ceramic Perruque (male) vase, £695

Oriel Harwood's work is available at David Gill, 60 Fulham Road, London SW3 (Tel: 0171 589 5946/ fax: 0171 584 9194).

## Three Popes, some dope and a drink



Extract from *The Orton Diaries* edited by John Lahr, to be reissued by Methuen in the autumn (£8.99)

ON 20 MAY 1967 Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell were at a louche dinner-party in Tangiers when they met an opium-smoking, toupee-wearing Marquis who took them home. Joe Orton recalls the event in his diary:

"The Marquis' home was crammed with junk. It looked like a Chelsea antique shop. Rubbish from the rag-bag of 18th-century culture. Mirrors with the original glass – so cracked that to see one's self in them was to have a vision of

### DESIGN LINES

what one's face might look like on the Day of Judgement, the marks of the grave on it.

"What shall you have to drink?" the Marquis said, leading me away from a monstrous, over-sized, headless nude statue of a man.

"Coca-Cola," I said, feeling the mere pronouncing of the word would dispel the mucky

grandeur of the past.

The Marquis looked put out. "Would you not prefer...?" and he said the name of some unsavoury drink to match the furniture.

We sat drinking and he told us of the Princess Marina and "What do you think of the Earl of Snowdon? Do you not think he is an unhappy man?"

"The Royal Family is a noose," I said. "You don't have to put your head in it. If a man does so, he must expect to be unhappy."

"Ah, oui," said the Marquis,

shrugging his shoulders and trying to look like a character in Proust.

We were sitting in the most uncomfortable chairs I have ever bummed. Near me was a table and most conspicuous on it were three photographs, a coloured one of Paul VI (un-signed), a small black of John XXIII with something written on it in the Holy Father's own fair hand, and a large, obviously Forties studio portrait of the wartime Pope which said, across the white robe, "Yours very sincerely, Pius XII."

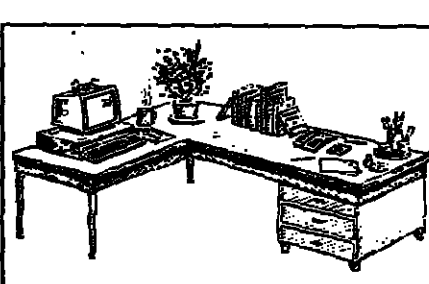
## I YEARN FOR....

A SPECIAL DESK, SAYS WRITER ALAIN DE BOTTON

IT MUST be big – most desks are too small – and L-shaped so that it wraps around me and takes an enormous quantity of paper. There must be room to swallow a computer and still appear like there's lots of space.

It's really a cliché of an office desk. As I work from home, I need a desk that defines my space. It must have lots of drawers with a filing cabinet in one leg and holes to hide the wires. It should withstand spills and dents; I need to feel free to slam things down.

I once glimpsed this desk in a Swedish or German furniture show-room in Savile Row, along with tubular sofas and chairs.



The desk appealed to me, though it cost thousands. Perhaps a reader might offer to buy it for me!

Alain de Botton will be speaking on "Intellectual Impostures" at the French Institute on 1 July at 6pm. Tickets, £4. Tel: 0171-937 8432.

# Tomorrow has been cancelled

The Millennium Commission has 185 projects on the go, but the really ambitious ones may never make it. By Nonie Niesewand

A new ailment is threatening to cut down millennium celebrations across the country in the year 2000. It's called donor fatigue. Donors, whether they be the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Arts Council, the Millennium Commission or private companies asked to match lottery hand-outs, are finding it is infectious. Symptoms include great difficulty reaching deep into pockets...

Many took a turn for the worse when they saw the Prime Minister in a hard hat inside the dome listen to Jenny Fage, chief executive of the New Millennium Experience, announce a £50 million shortfall in sponsorship for the great white flagship project itself. If even the dome can't attract sponsors, pity all the hundreds of other plans around the country that may never get off the drawing board.

"Clearly they are going to have a problem. That's the premier league appealing to prestigious firms in the top site," says Peter Valentine. And he should know. Finance director of the planned National Space Science Centre in Leicester, Valentine has spent a year with professional fundraisers BDS trying to get this \$46.5 million millennium project off the ground.

He's not the only one. The Millennium Commission has 185 projects on its books, that "represent a physical change to the landscape" such as buildings, bridges, woods and canals. It has set aside £2.5 billion of lottery money to fund them. But the catch is that the projects chosen must match their grant by the same amount from other sponsors to get the go-ahead. The commission says that 97 per cent of the 185 projects have been promised the additional sponsorship they need. But promises are not always kept and several of the proposed jewels in the millennium crown have not yet attracted the funding that they hope for.

Peter Valentine has first-hand experience of donor fatigue and knows it's getting worse. With a first-rate project for Britain's first space science centre, linked to the University of Leicester, Valentine has had difficulty finding companies willing to pay a fortune to match lottery funding of £23.5m.

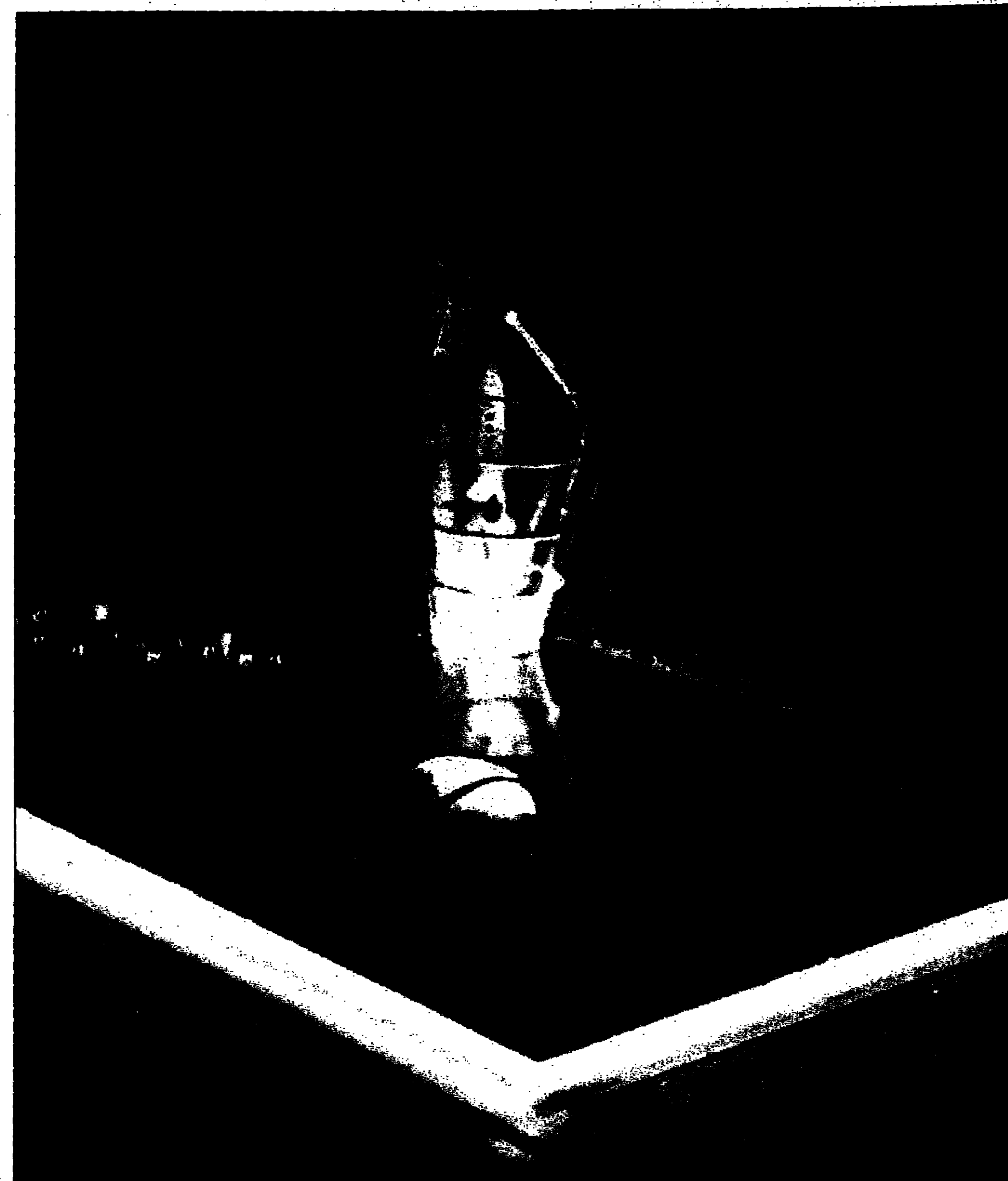
"Even when the Prime Minister intervenes to drum up support for the dome there are shortfalls," Valentine says wistfully. They've got 60 per cent in the bag but the centre, designed by Nicholas Grimshaw, at present going through planning, has been downsized from 12,000 square meters to 7,000. The National Space Science Centre is not due to open until February 2001, but the university is committed to opening the Space Challenger cockpit and mission control centre, on loan from the USA, before 2000. It might end up being housed in Portakabin, if they can't find somewhere to park it.

Even with EU grants guaranteed and private sponsorship on the table, things can go wrong. Further up the road, Trafford Council so love the fragmented shards of the new Imperial War Museum designed by Daniel Libeskind, that they raised nearly £8m from the EU only to find their request for lottery money turned down by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Just 20 minutes drive away, the extension to the Manchester Art Gallery by Michael Hopkins was granted lottery funding of £20 million two years ago but still no donors or sponsors have been found, so work hasn't begun.

The Millennium Commission only releases their share of the money in phases - once they know that the project is going along nicely. Sometimes they pull the project altogether. The Weather Station at Bracknell sounded like a good idea when the council presented it as an interactive discovery centre, but their grant was withdrawn when they decided to turn it into a visitor centre.

The famous Giant's Causeway electric tram that ran along the coastline in Northern Ireland also had its funding pulled when



## NATIONAL SPACE SCIENCE CENTRE LEICESTER

Britain's first space science centre will definitely go ahead, to open in February 2001 but downsized from 12,000 square meters to 7,000. The architect: Nicholas Grimshaw - he of the Eurostar terminal at Waterloo and the new stadium at Lords. Originally, he flooded a flat roof so that from space the centre look looked like a lake. Now he's used foil and insulation cladding to design a building that constantly changes colour, more like a mirage.

The building: Has a tower tall enough for rockets, clad in plastic foil fritted to change from transparent to opaque depending on your perspective. A mosaic of insulation panels on the walls changes colour with temperature (like rave T-shirt) and the flat roof is planted in wave form with alpine shrubs that turn from green in summer to autumnal red and orange in winter. Inside there is the most advanced planetarium in Europe.

The site: Storm water tanks emptied 20 years ago, donated by Leicester Sewage and Pumping Company, on the Abbey Mills pumping station.

Cost: £46.5m. Funding: £23.25m from the Millennium Commission with £13.8m raised by professional fundraisers, BDS. Richard Busby of BDS says: "Our job is to make design companies commercially viable. We work with the curators, not against them. If there's not enough distinction, it's not easy to get a sponsor."

For: NASA and the client, the University of Leicester.

Against: The conquest of outer space proved easier than filling the inner space.

the applicant couldn't get occupation of a house and garage critical to one terminus. A one-way railway brings on advanced stages of donor fatigue.

Not that you get a glimmer of this in a new exhibition called "12 for 2000", only on for one night in London, alas, before showing the world, through the British Council, 12 millennium projects. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister Derek

Fatchett calls them "examples of the excellence of British architecture and design". It's no secret that curator Hugh Pearman had to endlessly revise his list of buildings to make sure that they were all going ahead.

Mindful that a dozen buildings okayed for lottery money by the Millennium Commission hardly represents the 185 on the books, its chairman, Chris Smith, de-

scribed it as a "snapshot of what we are providing for the millennium". There were some good tourist attractions: the castle-related Lowry centre by Michael Wilford at Salford on the bleak quays of the Manchester canal; revitalised village greens across Britain and village halls granted new green china and urns in hamlets twinned with obscure EU place names.

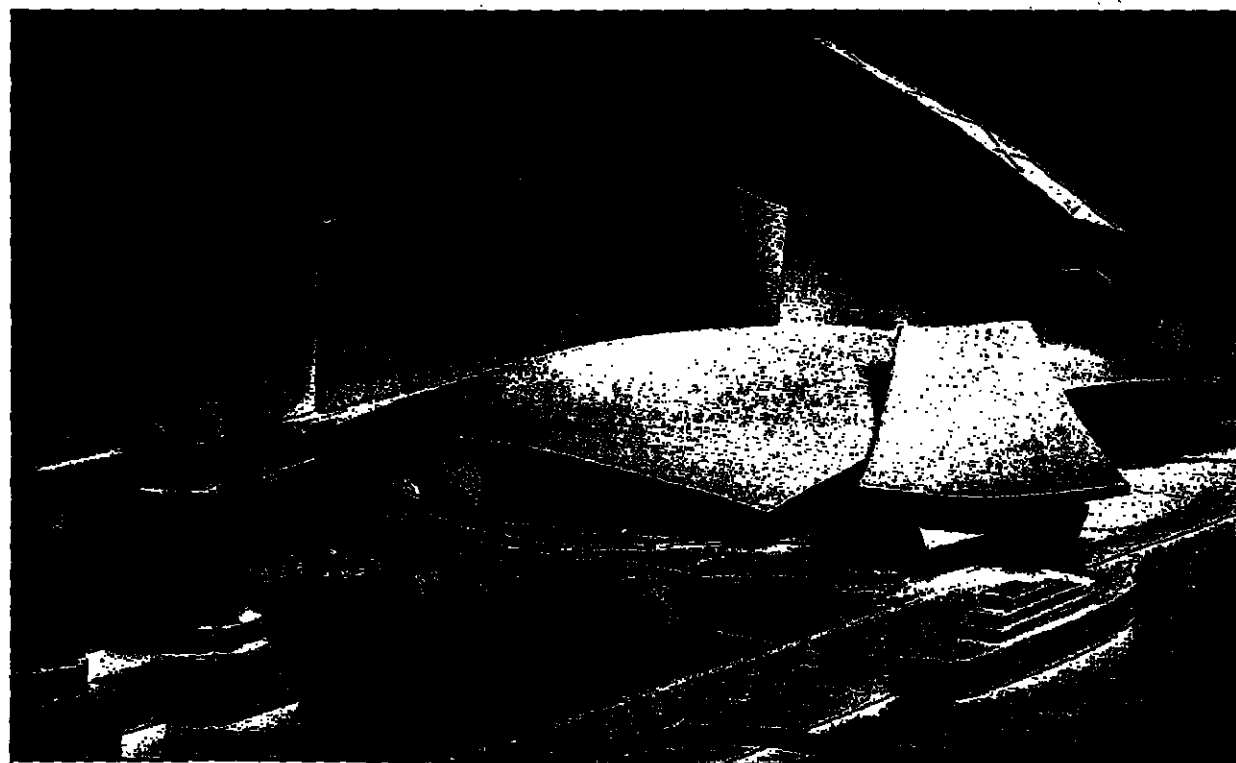
The enviably green Earth Centre in a

disused colliery near Doncaster (see below) was included in the exhibition, but without its major attraction, the butterfly building by Future Systems.

A New Millennium Experience market researcher asked me a year ago: "What does the Millennium mean to you?" He seemed taken aback when I replied: "A deadline". Deadlines take on a whole new meaning for the Millennium Commission

funded projects afflicted with donor fatigue. The bigger the designer label behind the building, and the more fun it promises, the tougher it is.

Bird sanctuaries, bellringers' towers, canalside gardens, visitor centres, and village halls may be great places to celebrate the millennium, but the really inventive projects with a longer shelf life are going to need resuscitation.



## IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH TRAFFORD, MANCHESTER

Intended to house surplus material from the Imperial War Museum in London and provide educational access for children north of Watford. The architect: Daniel Libeskind, superstar of the profoundly unsettling Jewish Museum in Berlin and planned Victoria and Albert Museum spiral ex-

tension in London. His deconstructivist style, everything skewed and on the diagonal, is a metaphor for a century of international conflict. The building: Three shards represent "the globe broken into fragments", showing land, sea and air warfare. The site: Five acres of wasteland on the banks of the Manchester Ship Canal.

Cost: Originally £40m, now £23m. Funding: Refused - except for £8.3m EU grant which expires if nothing is added to it within six months.

For: Trafford Council, which means planning approval won't be a problem. Manchester's Jewish community are strong supporters.

Against: Heritage Lottery Fund who twice rejected an application for £20m.



## THE ARK AT THE EARTH CENTRE NR DONCASTER

Part of an educational environment complex.

The architects: Future Systems, whose eco-chic buildings, flapped and hinged to exploit light and air, wowed the EU. The building: The Ark is seriously green with its butterfly-shaped roof dropping to the ground as a wrap-

around shelter that creates its own energy. Exhibitions on three levels inside. Visit: Antarctica or the rainforest. The site: 400 acres of a disused colliery outside Doncaster.

Cost: £23m, as part of the £100m Earth Centre project, the first phase of which, with buildings by Fellenden & Clegg, Alsop & Storrer and Letts Wheeler, has begun.

Funding: Needs £23m, of which £16m has come from the Millennium Commission and private sponsors. Still seeking £7m.

For: Sir Crispin Tickell of WorldWide Fund for Nature and Jonathan Smales of Greenpeace. Against: Nobody in their right mind could be against it. So why has the Ark been left high and dry?



## MUSIC

Flares, Abba and disco have all been rehabilitated. Now Seventies revivalism faces its sternest test – prog-rock. By Chris Darke

## From Genesis to re-evaluation

IT'S A strange spectacle, the Old Gabriel-era Genesis line-up standing around at Heathrow Airport for a promotional photo-shoot. Former members Anthony Phillips and John Silver, who played with the band long before they became famous, have even been unearthed for the occasion.

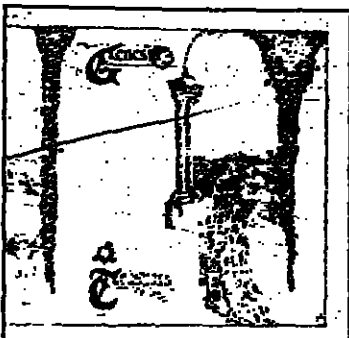
"Is this the first time you guys have all been together in the same room?" the photographer asks. "Yeah, we've been let out by the nurses," replies Peter Gabriel.

"The summer frame aspect of this is too good to miss," Phil Collins tells the photographer. "Ah, but we've got computers now," the photographer reassures him. "So we'll end up with long, flowing hair and like tummies..." says Collins.

Genesis are the unacceptable face of British rock and even in a pop climate intent on recycling every last detail of 70s kitsch we hold our noses and avert our eyes from the excesses of the progressive-rock era. So a four-CD boxed set devoted to Peter Gabriel-era Genesis is an archival venture that invites the dusting down of all the old criticisms: that they were musically bombastic and absurdly theatrical in their presentation; that they were the dinosaurs that punk thank-

fully laid to rest. When I get my allotted 10 minutes with Collins he tells me that "there are a lot of bands that are afraid to come out of the closet that would own up to being fans of the early Genesis", and follows up with a couple of anecdotes on how Topper Headon, drummer with The Clash, and a member of The Dead Kennedys had both approached him to admit – in whispers, no doubt – their guilty secret of having once been fans.

But by the Britrock catalogue of cardinal sins, Genesis were damned to start out with. Gabriel, Mike Rutherford and Tony Banks were ex-Charterhouse public schoolboys who were originally encouraged by



the old boy network in the unforgivable shape of Jonathan King, the Svengali of tasteless pop pranksterism.

Many would see Genesis as King's ultimate revenge on pop, but even he couldn't have guessed at the longevity of his discovery. It's forgotten how odd their early work was, informed by a pop sensibility that took The Beatles' Sergeant Pepper as an incitement to push the structural envelope as far as it would go. Other influences were soul-based – both Gabriel and Collins, who joined in 1971, were and remain obsessed by the black musical tradition – which overlapped with an affinity for English church and choral musics.

The Archive collection recapitulates what made the Gabriel-era albums distinctive. For all the cod-mysticism of the earliest records – *Trespass* (1970), *Nursery Cryme* (1971) and *Footrot* (1972) – they now sound like awkward forays into describing, through musical textures and character-driven lyrics, a certain kind of Englishness.

In his ambitious study of "pop-life in Albion", *England is Mine*, Michael Bracewell locates an abiding landscape of British pop as "Arcady... recalled with the sentimental nostalgia of infantilism: the adult reflex that years in crisis to re-create the remembered comfort and security of childhood. Communing with Arcady through the English countryside, we can become children again."



Back in the days of flares (or are they loons, even?) long hair and trim tummies, with the oddly coiffured Peter Gabriel and an hirsute Phil Collins on the right



In the early Genesis work, the music's folk-rock textures provide a green and pleasant backdrop for Gabriel's imagination to people with strange characters and a mixture of humour and grotesquerie. This period now sounds like the missing link between Monty Python and *Ziggy Stardust*-era Bowie. The English nonsense tradition is fed through a certain fairy-tale savagery to emerge as... a rock frontman kitted out in a red dress and a fox's head.

Gabriel's penchant for rock theatrics set Genesis aside from their prog-rock peers. Yes and ELP in a way that their baroque compositions couldn't. And by the time of their sixth album, *Selling England by the Pound*, they were pushing themselves to the Americans as Britpop avant la lettre. Gabriel toured this album done up as Britannia and singing about East End gang wars on "The Battle of Epping Forest" with mockney inflections that sound closer to Eric Idle than Mick Jagger or Damon Albarn.

The Genesis Archive prompts the question, why have they been so thoroughly airbrushed out of the line-up of credible British rock acts? Part of the answer must lie in the band having continued after Gabriel left, becoming first a core Establishment group, then an efficient if uninspiring pop machine. Had the last record with Gabriel, the concept album *The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway*, been Genesis's swan-song, the period of the Archive,

from 1967 to 1975, might have been more acceptable for critical reconsideration. For if the whole idea of the concept album has been revitalised recently thanks to artists as distinct as Radiohead, Goldie and Roni Size, *The Lamb*... is the granddaddy of them all.

Two CDs of the Archive collection are given over to a live version of *The Lamb*..., revealing it as their darkest work. Gabriel wrote the story of a young Puerto Rican gang member, Rael, undergoing a transcendental experience in a mythical world beneath the New York streets and has re-recorded the vocals for the current project. Over 30 years, his voice has matured from a choirboy quaver through what one rock writer described as "a raven-throated croak" to an emotive soul instrument. Two tracks in particular benefit from the revoicing: the sinister lullaby "Carpet Crawlers" and "Back in NYC", an all-out rocker covered by the late Jeff Buckley on the posthumous collection *Sketches for My Sweetheart the Drunk*.

If The Who could get away with *Tommy*, then Genesis have nothing to apologise for with *The Lamb*.... And, like Townshend's venture into rock-opera, Gabriel's also had its filmic connections. "I spent some time working with Alejandro Jodorowski who'd made *El Topo*, which was like a spiritual Western, very rough and violent. It made a huge impact on me. We devised a script together. In the last two or three years there have been three or four people that have expressed interest in pursuing it as a film."

He admits that he's surprised when *The Lamb*... still comes up as an influence, "because I've used to 15 years of people badmouthing prog-rock. Although there were some really embarrassing moments, there was a heart to what we were trying to do." But whether that is indictment enough for timid fans of early Genesis to leap out of the closet or not remains to be seen.

## Like the man never left us

LISTEN TO the music of the late Charles Mingus and you get the feeling that all of human life is here. There's mewing cries and choking death rattles, an abundance of both laughter and tears, and enough proudly tumescent horn-play for several rites of spring.

A big man with big emotions, Mingus deployed the instruments of the orchestra rather as if they were parts of the human body. In his arrangements you can almost hear the pulsing of blood, the rumblings of a stomach, and the irregular thump of an over-excited heart.

The Mingus Band, formed by the composer's widow Sue Mingus to keep the spirit of his music alive, is both a satisfyingly faithful reflection of the man himself, and a wonderfully rumbustious group in its own right. It's both tight and loose at the same time, blending stately, Ellingtonian ensemble passages with uproarious moments of great passion. There's also so much

JAZZ  
THE MINGUS BIG BAND  
RONNIE SCOTT'S  
LONDON

heat and friction generated by the bravura blowing of the featured soloists that it sometimes seems as if the bandstand is likely to explode at any moment.

In this first performance of a two-week run at Ronnie's, the looseness was perhaps more in evidence than it will be for the rest of the engagement. At the beginning, the band had to sit in silence for what seemed an age while the trumpet section searched for their music, and you couldn't help wondering how Mingus himself – if there in body as well as spirit – might have reacted. He once brought a revolver on stage to settle an argument in the band and, in his necessarily brief engagement with the Ellington orchestra, he famously chased another bandsman across the



Mingus: Presiding spirit

stage with an axe. Happily, the response here was no more than a sigh of mild impatience from the leader, Steve Slagle.

Though the band is picked from a large floating pool of personnel when plays its weekly residency at the Time Café in New York, the 14 members at Ronnie's include a number of

players who are stars in their own right. The level of individual playing was astonishing, especially from the front-line of saxophonists. Bobby Watson and Slagle on altos, Seamus Blake and John Stubblefield on tenors, and Ronnie Cuber on baritone all took heroic solos while – in authentic Mingus style – the rest of the band egged them on with whoops, hollers and hand-claps, as well as the odd ironic put-down.

But despite the brilliance of the solos, the ensemble was really the thing. At the end, with the band riffing on the chorus to *Better Git It In Your Soul*, with squealing trumpets, braying trombones and roaring saxes threatening to blow the house down, you could imagine the spirit of dear, departed Charlie hovering over them like a genie escaped from the lamp.

PHIL JOHNSON

The Mingus Big Band continues at Ronnie Scott's, W1, until Saturday, 4 July (0171 439 1747)

## THE CHARTS

## TOP 10 UK SINGLES

TITLE	ARTIST
1 Three Lions '98	Baddiel, Skinner
2 Vindaloo	Fat Les
3 Ghetto Supastar	Pras Michel
4 C'est La Vie	B*Witched
5 Got The Feelin'	Five
6 Lost In Space	Lighthouse Family
7 Horny	Mousse T
8 Carnaval De Paris	Dario G
9 Looking For Love	Karen Ramirez
10 The Boy Is Mine	Brandy & Monica

## TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

TITLE	ARTIST
1 Talk On Corners	The Corrs
2 Blue	Simply Red
3 When We Were The New Boys	Rod Stewart
4 The Good Will Out	Embrace
5 Try Whistling This	Neil Finn
6 Life Thru A Lens	Robbie Williams
7 Urban Hymns	The Verve
8 Where We Belong	Boyzone
9 Left Of The Middle	Natalie Imbruglia
10 Trampoline	Mavericks

## TOP 10 SINGLES FROM 10 YEARS AGO

TITLE	ARTIST
1 I Owe You Nothing	Bros
2 Doctorin' The Tardis	The Timelords
3 Boys	Sabrina
4 Voyage Voyage	Desireless
5 Wild World	Maxi Priest
6 With A Little Help	Wet Wet Wet
7 The Twist	Fat Boys
8 Chains Of Love	Erasure
9 Tribute	The Pasadenas
10 Every Day Is Like Sunday	Morrissey

## TOP 10 SINGLES FROM 20 YEARS AGO

TITLE	ARTIST
1 You're The One That I Want	John Travolta
2 Miss You	The Rolling Stones
3 Rivers Of Babylon	Boney M
4 Annie's Song	James Galway
5 Oh Carol	Smokie
6 Davy's On The Road Again	Manfred Mann
7 Smurf Song	Father Abraham
8 Ca Plane Pour Moi	Plastic Bertrand
9 Boy From New York City	Darts
10 Airport	Motors

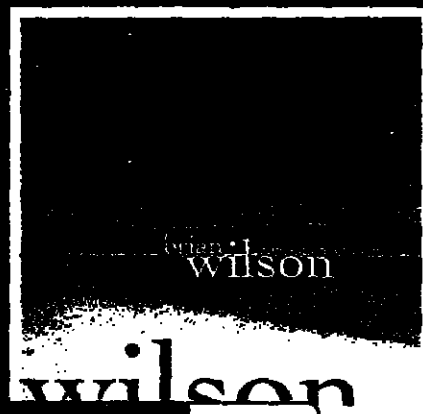
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# Shout, shout, let it all out

THE BEASTIE BOYS are something of an acquired taste. If you were weaned on the mellifluous tones of say, LL Cool J or Hip-hop's Michael Franti, the Beasties will be about as enjoyable as a mouthful of Roquefort when you're accustomed to the odd bit of Cheddar. Their trademark beery, shouty vocals range from high-pitched to downright squeaky, while their belting rap espouses hard partying as opposed to the gangsta politics of their contemporaries.

The delinquent trio - Ad Rock, MCA and Mike D - made middle England shudder with dread during the Eighties. The hormone-driven brat-rap of their 1985 debut *Licensed to Ill* - containing that rumbustious teenage anthem "Fight for your Right to Party" - prompted parents to lock up their daughters and chase the perpetrators back to New York.

Thirteen years on, they are still a force to be reckoned with. *Licensed To Ill* became one of the fastest-selling debut albums ever and, four albums on, they are now leading lights of the white-boy hip hop fraternity. They also run their own record label, produce their own magazine, do their own line in clothing and have embraced Buddhism.

But despite this rather incongruous spiritual and commercial status, they haven't lost any of their

## REVIEW

THE BEASTIE BOYS  
Brixton Academy  
London

juvenile sparkle. As the syncopated thud of "Sure Shot" grips the auditorium, Mike D prances on to the stage dressed as the Caped Crusader and his cohorts run around in Day-glo boilersuits. They leap, strut, and stomp about the stage, screaming their delinquent diatribe with larynx-lacerating force. Most

impressive of all is the crowd's ability to sing along - if you've ever read their lyrics, you'll know what I mean. Overlaid with muscular rhythms and sprawling samples, their riot-inducing rumpus runs rings around funk, punk, jazz and rap, and they show uncharacteristic precision in bouncing from one genre to the next.

After a rather overlong period of scratchy, shouty numbers, they suddenly switch into "Shaft" mode. Assuming the session musician's demeanour of staring dolefully into the middle distance, they embark upon some exquisite jazzy instrumentals, complete with Hammond organ, double bass and Blue Peter percussion. It is this side of the Beasties that makes one wonder why anyone thought they were evil.

But then they remind us, abruptly



With their delinquent mix of funky metal rap and Buddhism, the Beastie Boys bring it on home to Brixton

Tony Buckingham

ly deciding to wake everyone up with an ear-crunching punk thrash number. The delightfully sadistic sentiments of "Heart Attack Man" makes it hard to believe that Adam Yauch (aka MCA) could even possibly be a Buddhist.

The crowd, all seemingly trying to outdo one another with the baggiest trousers, are also extraordinarily adept at switching personas. One minute they are beating each other to a pulp in the mosh pit, the next they are rolling back on their heels and passing round the splits.

After an excellent support slot, Money Mark continues to steal the show, with his slick Mr Sulu hairdo and cheeky grin. Despite his reputation as being the most reserved of the Beastie's part-timers, he seems constantly on the brink of hysterical

laughter. As they encore with their guitar-driven homage to Starsky and Hutch, "Sabotage", he leaps back and forth over his keyboard, while still miraculously managing to play it. The crowd reaches new heights of madness as a sweaty fan takes a look at my notebook and vows he will hunt me down and punch my lights out if I don't write something nice. I thank my lucky stars that they've put on a good show, but his rather unsavoury attitude doesn't quite fit in with the Beastie philosophy. There is nothing antagonistic about them, but then there never really was.

FIONA STURGES

The Beastie Boys' new album 'Hello Nasty' is out on 6 July (Grand Royal/Capitol)

## EXIT POLL

WHAT THE PUNTERS THOUGHT OF THE BEASTIE BOYS

Andrew Fox, 25, web designer, London

"They are fantastic. It's one of the best gigs I have seen in a long time because I know them so well and dearly love them and they make perfect sense. It is total, chaotic, party music. If I didn't know The Beastie Boys, I would be lost, but for someone who likes them, it was brilliant. They did a lot of punk stuff which made everyone mosh and I haven't moshed since I was a student. I regressed, which was a big deal for me but probably not something I would talk about at dinner parties."

Anna Brooks, 18, student, London

"I found some of it confusing. It was so mad on stage and there was a lot of pushing and shoving going down on the floor so that it was really difficult not to get caught up in it. Next time I see them I'll get right up to the front. Some of my friends did and I think they must have collapsed somewhere!"

Matt Fisher, 29, band manager, London

"Fantastic. Raw rock and roll, stop and start. The whole vibe was brilliant, they controlled it perfectly, from indulgent funk jazz tracks to

three-minute thrash punk songs that they are so renowned for. It was a superb show. There was a really bare stage, really minimal. It's what it's about really and that's my bottom line on the Beastie Boys. Awesome."

Alejandra Obrégón, 24, editor, Columbia

"I really enjoyed it, I like Money Mark a lot. It was great, but very much a Beastie Boys crowd rather than a crowd for Money Mark. The Beastie Boys were just like boys. It was a very good end to the concert with 'Sabotage'."

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## THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



### CD CHOICE

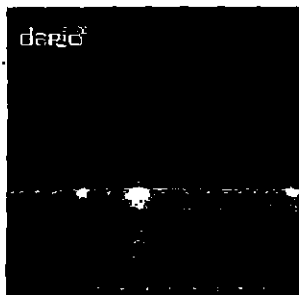
MOJO RADIO LO'JO (NIGHT & DAY JNC013)

LIKE EVERY other aspect of our lives, the record racks are currently awash with World Cup cash-ins - not just the new national anthems, but also countless albums of football-related compilations claiming to celebrate the competition's internationality with a musical buffet ranging from the indecipherable to the unlistenable.

A more satisfying, authentically distilled representation of the event's multi-ethnicity can be better gleaned, however, from French band Lo'Jo's inspiring *Mojo Radio*, an eclectic blend of French, Arabic and North African musical flavours whose lyrical content ranges wider still, taking in Spanish, Hindi and even English idioms. Fronted by gruff rapper Denis Pean, with the Nid El Mourid sisters adding exquisite backing harmonies, Lo'Jo's sound leans heavily on violin and accordion - though both instruments are played imaginatively, in ways which broaden the stereotypical French styles. With strong rhythmic underpinning pro-

vided by exotic percussion like darabuka and balafon, there's a pan-global infectiousness that acknowledges no national boundaries, an attitude nowhere better expressed than on "Amadou Morito", where Lo'Jo gracefully thread bass clarinet and saxophones over a bed of kora, sitar and tabla.

Usually, this kind of cultural cross-pollination takes place either in occasional studio meetings (mostly at Peter Gabriel's RealWorld) or at Megadog-style raves. But *Mojo Radio* exudes an ease and integrity born of togetherness: it's an organic thing, grown out of the band's 15-year history, rather than a musical exercise. It's a brave work, with songs like "Rwandamania" challenging their countrymen's more conservative attitudes. The title-track itself offers an especially rousing expression of outsider unity - a battle-cry of the dispossessed more ringingly sincere even than a footballer's shampoo endorsement. If that's humanly possible.



### SUNMACHINE

DARIO G  
(WARNER BROS. 3984-23378-2)

SUNMACHINE IS a perfect example of the way most people encounter "ethnic" music - as a series of flavourings added to dance music in an attempt to make the mundane seem more exotic. Techno trio Dario G try several styles here, including those trusty favourites, didgeridoo and bhangra, the latter largely through borrowed elements of Monsoon's 1982 hit "Ever So Lonely". It works well in some cases, though the current single "Carnaval De Paris", a catch-all exercise in pan-national eclecticism on a football-chant theme, fails dismally to rise above its naked opportunism, announced with a brazen flourish of accordion more patronisingly Gallic than anything on Lo'Jo's album.

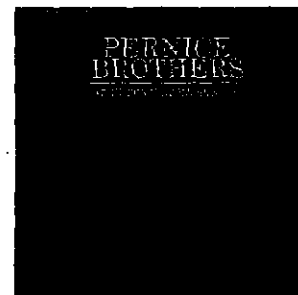
Despite this - or because of it - Dario G's method pays enormous dividends. "Sun-chyme", the Robert Miles-style dancefloor groove, was a huge worldwide hit last year and it doesn't take a genius to envisage "Sun-machine" itself following suit.



### CONCERT CLASSICS

KRAFTWERK  
(RANCH LIFE CRANCH 4)

DATING FROM the 1974 tour undertaken in the wake of "Autobahn", this live album suggests why subsequent Kraftwerk product is so thin on the ground - having made their great stylistic breakthrough, there's little more to be done than shuffle their electronic tones around into new melodies. *Concert Classics* is a lovely album all the same, with "Kometenmelodie" and "Morgenspaziergang" featuring a delicate glockenspiel tone largely absent from later works. Both also bear the traces of the group's earlier improvisational style, while the 20-minute centrepiece of "Autobahn" clearly holds the key to future developments. A quarter-decade on, it's not quite as perfect driving music as it once seemed compared with today's faster, more powerful techno models. But there's still a grace and charm about it that's been swept aside in the drive for dancefloor efficiency. We are the poorer for its disappearance, and for theirs.



### OVERCOME BY HAPPINESS

PERNICE BROTHERS  
(RYKODISC RCD10447)

THOUGH HIS brother Bob does indeed help out on guitar and vocals, *Overcome By Happiness* is really more of a solo effort by Joe Pernice.

The mood here is too impressionistic for New Country, with strings and occasional horns tinting Pernice's melancholic songs in a manner reminiscent of REM's *Automatic For The People*. With Pernice's hoarse vocals blurring their edges, and winding, cyclical melodies, they're odd, tentative songs that seem to circle around subjects without really alighting on them for any length of time - a style which makes for a few surprises, as when "Chicken Wire" eventually turns out to be about a suicide. Sometimes, they seem to be less songs than mood moments, emotional snapshots of things too difficult or too abstract to easily put into words. Then again, what exactly ought one to expect of a song called "Wherein Obscurely"? An engagingly mysterious debut.



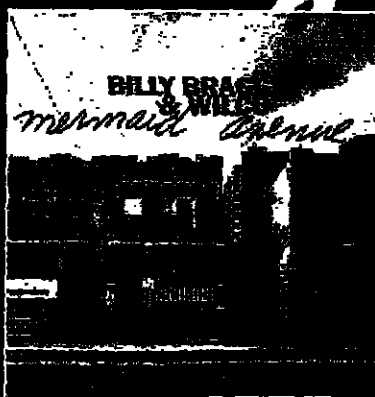
### THE CURSE OF THE GOLDEN VAMPIRE

ALEC EMPIRE & TECHNO ANIMAL  
(DIGITAL HARDCORE DHH 014)

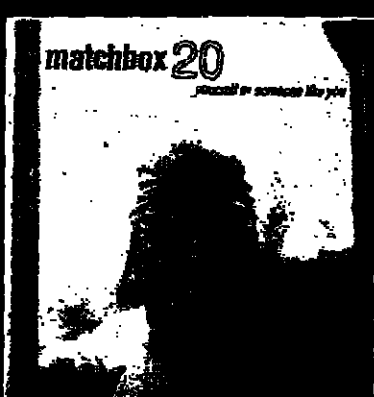
THE PROLIFIC hardcore techno auteur Alec Empire seems to have found his perfect collaborators in Techno Animal - the duo of Kevin Martin and Justin Broadrick.

Both parties profit from the arrangement: Empire gets a more daring surface for his distorted, over-driven beats, and Techno Animal's noise-scapes acquire the blistering rhythm tracks that they so richly deserve. Admittedly, parts of *The Curse Of The Golden Vampire* do sound like someone sweeping up after an explosion in a glass factory, but others, such as the opening track "Caucasian Death-mask", are exhilarating blocks of rhythm, noise and willing free-form saxophone. The only vocals - by MC Bean on "Substance X" - are half-legible phrases trapped in the cogs of the trio's metal machine music. It's a fair bet you'll not hear another album like this in 1998 - though of course, that's no guarantee of satisfaction. You have been warned.

## Recommended releases.



Billy Bragg & Wilco 'Mermaid Avenue'. Billy Bragg joins folk exiles Wilco for a new album that has them putting music to revolutionary protest songs from the early American protest singer Woody Guthrie. Out on 11 July.



Matchbox 20 'You're Gonna Get Yours'. The most successful band in America at the moment, Matchbox 20 have taken the UK by storm with their beautiful debut. *You're Gonna Get Yours* is a collection of songs that are as powerful as they are beautiful. Out on 11 July.





Embrace, the media's new indie pop darling, are uncomfortable being compared to stadium rock bands. They insist the best is still to come

Mary Scanlon

## A spiced-up supernova

Who do you think you are? Oasis? No, say Embrace.  
They're better than that. By Jennifer Rodger

IT'S 18 months since Embrace offered up the slogan "Better Than Oasis" to the music press after a gig in front of 100 people resulted in a deal with Hut in the UK and Geffen in the States, a three-night residency at London's ICA and a mud-thwarted non-appearance at Glastonbury. They crashed on to the scene with an impact that marked them out as a kind of (male) indie Spice Girls. Embrace could have grabbed the invite to Next Big Thing bash, left a hastily-recorded debut album with the butler and picked up on every lucrative offer thrown at them. Instead, they bided their time and released three EPs as calling cards and refused a request for one of their songs to be the soundtrack for a tabloid advert.

A year and a half after being signed, they have come out of Yorkshire with their debut album, *The Good Will Out*, which went straight to No. 1.

Rather than a Soho studio, their address is a Huddersfield community centre. Forget cocaine: they are more likely to be found doing pub quizzes.

"We sort of got lead into saying all those statements about being better than Oasis by people with their own agendas," says Danny McNamara, the band's vocalist and guitarist. "We were naive." He says they needed to square up to the criticism and improve their technical skills. "People really love this band and they stick up for us. They forget that we are new, and compare us with stadium rock bands. Just because we have written good songs, that doesn't mean this is going to be the best we can ever do."

Rather than the Verve and Oasis comparisons that greeted them ("the similarities are cosmetic," says McNamara), James Brown, Otis Redding and Nirvana are more telling inspirations. The influences can be seen in an album which reaches for melodic House of Love, begs the guitar licks and riffs from Stone Roses' funk and has Aretha Franklin's soul sewn into each song as if Embrace discovered a pipe that pumps emotion from the heart.

"We kind of just go for something that is really uplifting," says McNamara. "We try for a strong melody - one where you get to the end and feel better. If you are writing from the heart

and not from the head, you just let it come out. It does work on a cerebral level, but I think it is more visceral. We don't analyse it much."

Their current EP "Come Back To What You Know", balances instinctive feel-good lyrics with a tight leash on its clichés. This ingenuity runs through *The Good Will Out* as it rubs muscle-to-muscle rock ("All You Good Good People", "One Big Family", "The Last Gas") and head-to-head serenades ("Fireworks", "Retread", "Now You're Nobody"). "All You Good Good People", for example, works as a terrace anthem, but was in fact written about a relationship breakup. Embrace are more the subject of dispute

than definitive statements. "It's like the Bible," is typical grandiloquence which has been misinterpreted as arrogance. It's only to point out the songs are open to interpretation.

If you want to pretend Embrace are a Brit Pop parallel to the Spice Girls, - and the media certainly have treated them like that - here is the Easy Guide. Mike "Sweet" Heaton, on guitars, says: "You can't complain about being compared to two of the best bands in the UK." Steven "Shy" Frith, bass, says nothing. Danny "Chatterbox" McNamara, vocals and guitar: "If you are describing a colour like dark blue, you can't do it without comparing it to blue and black. Music is abstract like that." And Richard "Mink" McNamara: "Big ideas? I wanted to be a superhero last week."

*"The Good Will Out" is on Hut/Virgin Records*

### LYRIC SHEETS

During the recent row over The Stones not touring the UK it went almost unnoticed that Keith Richards had broken two ribs falling off some steps in his library. Apart from books, the library is said to contain a hangman's noose, a human skull and a bottle of HP Sauce.

Phummeting from library steps  
Like Icarus among the books  
His ribs sustained two broken ribs  
Makum was non-frangitur  
(A bad vase doesn't break)  
"Library? A library?"  
What's Keef want with a library?  
Incredulous, his colleagues asked  
To find the bibliophile unmasked  
"A Tardis would be more his style  
Or bathtub with a crocodile"  
Mick and Ron flashed puzzled looks  
A closet don't? A man of books?  
And which books in his library?  
The British National Formulary?  
Well-thumbed but dusty on the wall  
Or Gibbon with Decline and Fall?  
Reports describe the library:  
Octagonal, Mahogany  
He climbed the ladder shakily  
And ended up in agony  
His wiry frame, his bird's nest hair  
The seen-too-much-of-sunrise stare  
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### RIFFS

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I liked it because it was a 45 and the sleeve was a tacky piss-take of the Sun newspaper heading, a media-type thing. You could actually fold it out and it had mock up stories inside. It was a hardcore tune. I listened to it over and over again, until someone stole it. I was 14. It reminds me of going to a youth club and having a little ruck and getting your head kicked in. I would like to listen to it now, in the cold light of day.

**FOUR CORNERS**  
YELLOW JACKET  
I have got it four times, but it keeps getting knackered be-



cause I love it to death. To top that though, I bought a Talking Heads album 20 times. There are only two albums that I listen to all the time and Four Corners is one of them. I continuously listen to it. I take it everywhere in the world with me and have found it always helps.

Sarah Jepp was afraid her career was stalling. Then epiphany struck on the District Line. By James McNair

## The beatniks are back - in Parsons Green

"HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS always baffle me, but that's where my songs come from. Every time I get surprised, disillusioned or completely put off, I just go to my little notebook."

Sitting in the elegant lounge of the Portobello Hotel in Notting Hill, 25-year-old singer-songwriter Sarah Jepp punctuates this admission with a slightly nervous laugh. The daughter of an Irish-American mother and a Chilean father, she was born in Minneapolis, but also lived in New York and Los Angeles before settling in London. Jepp has also spent a fair amount of time "on the road". Fitting, then, that Mojo magazine should describe her eponymous debut album in terms of "beatnik cool".

Talking to her, it soon becomes apparent that her journey thus far has been peppered with false starts, odd jobs, and intriguing characters. At 19, having decided that she couldn't handle the cold of another Minnesota winter, she moved to L.A.'s Venice Beach and took a job as a nanny. "It was a complete nightmare," she says. "I kinda expected the mom to mother me a bit, too, but she was more interested in getting me to clean the house, like, 16 hours a day."

Her next jobs were as a breakfast waitress and a telemarketing clerk, but despite having "hucked-out" with an expensive room on the Venice Canals, L.A.'s vacuous side was beginning to grate. "You'd get the smile, but that was it," she explains. "I'd go, I'm a bit down, I just got here, and they'd go, 'I gotta go talk to my friend over there'. I figured it was me," she laughs. "I moved to New York."

Though Jepp was already writing perceptive vignettes and developing a vocal style redolent of a more stentorian Rickie Lee Jones, at this stage, she still didn't have the self-belief to pursue music professionally.

She went to fashion school for a time, even wrote sketches for a stand-up comedian at one point. Down on her luck, she took a job at a horse stable in Central Park, moving from "friend's couch to friend's couch".

It was around this time that she met Dave Boyd of Hut Records. Within two months of her forming a band with guitarist Brandon Ross and former Jesus And Mary Chain drummer Richie Thomas, Boyd had signed Jepp to Hut. This, she says, was "a miracle out of the clear blue sky".

Produced by Nico Bola, Jepp's

debut album carves a refreshing sonic niche. Featured instrumentalists include vibraphone and marimba player Brian Carrott ("Don't forget that extra 't' - he's not a vegetable"), and Brazilian percussionist Cyro Baptista.

The departure of Richie Thomas in the project's early stages clearly unsettled Jepp. She says that she felt she'd lost an important ally and was scared that Virgin (of which Hut Records is a subsidiary) wouldn't let her make the album. Her overcoming of that fear is documented on Parsons Green, perhaps the record's stand-out track. "I was travelling on the District Line to my lawyer's office when I had a kind of epiphany," she explains. "I realised that, despite my grief, I shouldn't stop what I was doing."

Jepp tells me that with Boles cracking the whip, her album took just three weeks to make. She recounts how, when she "lost it" and started crying during a vocal take for the song *Orbit*, the producer was unmoved. "He was like: 'No, this is work, Sarah, and these musicians are on the clock'. He gave me two minutes and then I had to get back in there," she says. Perhaps he realised that if he did get her back at

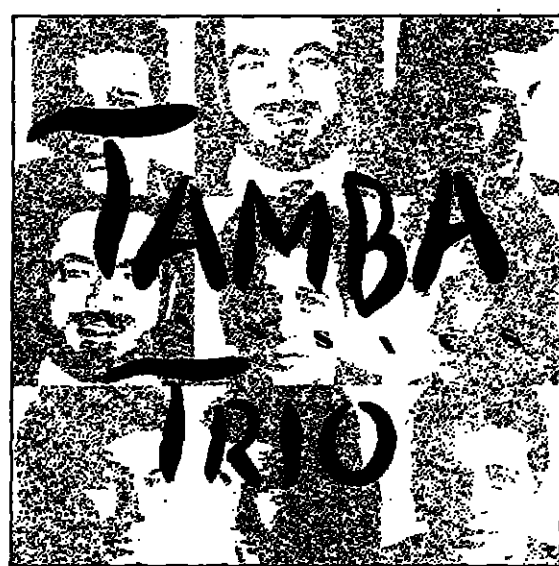


Sarah Jepp... "I'd always be willing to step up to the plate"

the mike, he'd get the definitive performance? "Well that was his story," she smiles. "He said he knew that if he set me a challenge, I'd always be willing to step up to the plate."

The strength of Jepp's songwriting is its honest portrayal of characters she's met along the way. Christy, for example, is a warts-and-all snap-shot of a wannabe actress she lived with in L.A., while her best friend's mother's

migraines and hobbies are immortalised in *Bowling Night*. Did she worry how Christy might react to her song? I wondered? She pauses. "No matter how good a relationship you have with your friends, there will always be times when you think 'God, you're really getting on my nerves'," she says. "We can all be idiots. Are you gonna have a sense of humour about it, or are you gonna be a phoney?"



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Elena Prokina has come a long way. From the fields of St Petersburg to Glyndebourne, to be exact. By Michael Church

# The big voice that kicks up a storm

Everyone knows the horror stories about classical musicians in Maoist China – the humiliations, mutilations, forced labour in the countryside. Classical musicians in Soviet Russia, we have been led to assume, had a comparatively easy time: bred like racehorses, they were expressly trained to win glory for their motherland.

So the history of Elena Prokina's student years comes as a surprise. "Every October we were sent to dig potatoes in the fields round St Petersburg. The ground was frozen, the weather was awful, everyone got ill. No way to treat a lady? Certainly no way to treat a budding soprano, even if she and her friends did manage to extract some fun along the way.

We're in the Glyndebourne canteen, where it emerges that the man sharing the duty of nursing her 19-month-old son was also sent to dig potatoes round St Petersburg, though the way this couple met was rather more tortuous. Kirill Chertchenko was a music critic with a notorious reputation, who was one day sent to review a Tsvetkov lead. He gave me a rotten review," says Prokina with a grimace. "Not at all," counters her husband. "I merely said she could in time become an excellent singer, provided she got rid of her worky intonation. Soon after, we ran into each other in a café and I persuaded her to do an interview." That interview was never published, but the marriage ban was: now he delivers his reviews across the breakfast table.

But her biggest musical influence was her father. "He was just a driver, with no musical education, but he played the piano and guitar, and had a beautiful tenor voice. What talent I have must come from him. We



Elena Prokina in 'Eugene Onegin' at Glyndebourne. The role of Tatyana, she says is one 'familiar to every Russian schoolgirl'

Katie Dinnage

used to sing together – folk songs, operettas – and from my early years I wanted to be an actress."

They lived in Odessa, once the cradle of the world's greatest violinists, but sadly run down even in the last days of communism. Prokina went at 13 to the local music conservatory, but its fustiness drove her

on to an experimental theatre school in St Petersburg where she acquired a unique battery of skills. These included wrestling, yoga, acrobatics, juggling, skiing (an obligatory five kilometres a day) and fencing. "At first I refused to fence, but I gave in when they threatened to take my grant away."

Her musical training was even less orthodox. "For the first year we had to make mime dramas out of the preludes and fugues of Bach. Only in the second year were we allowed to sing." Moreover, they had to sing while doing classical ballet exercises. "And you must realise that the classical posture – with the di-

aphragm held in – makes singing almost impossible." But all this paid dividends, as witness her Tatyana in the Glyndebourne *Eugene Onegin* last year. In the climactic Letter Scene, Prokina was hurled around the stage by the force of her emotions. This was the second time in the space of a few months that she

had rocked British audiences: the first was her title role in the Covent Garden *Katya Kabanova*. These doomed heroines are often twinned in western minds, but she draws a clear distinction. "When I sing Katya, I forget I'm playing a role. But when I sing Tatyana, a familiar figure to every Russian schoolgirl, I'm

conscious of Tchaikovsky's art every step of the way."

She was talent-spotted by Valery Gergiev, and pitched in at the deep end. The Kirov was in dire straits, and rehearsal ludicrously short – she had 24 hours to prepare the lead in Prince Igor. The nadir came when a company official announced that she had just seven hours – in his view plenty of time – to work up a different part in the same opera when another soprano fell ill. "As I stood on stage before the curtain went up I prayed to God, and he answered my prayer." Next Saturday she is due to sing Amelia in Peter Hall's production of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*. Prayers may still be in order, but not to a desperate degree.

It's a typical modern irony that Prokina does not sing in Russia. There isn't the money for opera now, and still less in her beloved Odessa, from where the star organist had to decamp to the West because the local power supply was too weak to drive her instrument.

Prokina's dream is to mount a festival in one of the palaces in St Petersburg, and to stage an *Onegin* free of the gaffes which irked her in Graham Vick's critically-acclaimed Glyndebourne production. Psychological truth, she says, may have been present in abundance, but social truth was missed entirely.

While the select few catch her in Glyndebourne next week, the wider public can get hold of her new CD. Thirty songs by the Russian composer Reinhold Gliere, none of them masterpieces but all marked by a sweet artlessness. And singing with supreme accomplishment.

*'Simon Boccanegra': Glyndebourne from 4 July. The video of 'Eugene Onegin' is released by Warner. 'How Dark Is The Night' songs by Gliere. BMG Conifer 75605 51305 2*

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Barristers have never been so much on the defensive. From the fledgling complaints commission to the inquiry into QCs' fees and now proposals for reform by the Lord Chancellor, is it finally calling time at the Bar?

# Why do barristers fear this man?

VERY FEW letters of thanks cross the desk of General Michael Scott, the lay commissioner responsible for handling complaints against barristers. He is more likely to become the target of complainants who transfer their wrath from the barrister they are convinced wronged them, to Scott, when he dismisses their complaint.

One prisoner, however, took a more sanguine view. After hearing his complaint had been dismissed, the prisoner wrote to Scott: "I have even noticed you wrote to me in my language in order to help me understand easier. Keep up the good work. Thanks. PS I will win."

A year into his job as the Bar's first complaints commissioner - the new Legal Services Ombudsman, Ann Abraham, will be passing her judgement on his work on Monday (29 June) when she publishes her first annual report - Scott CB CBE DSO, still looks the very image of a modern general, with his narrow, brown-rimmed glasses, wide pin-striped suit, regimental red and blue watchstrap and precisely ordered office with its military prints on the wall.

However, Scott, who commanded the Second Battalion Scots Guards in the battle for Mount Tumbledown during the Falklands war, is well used to dealing with "disappointed" people. He shows considerable empathy and patience for the inarticulate and distressed.

"There is, perhaps, a little feeling among complainants that I am 'one of them'. But I see myself as an umpire. I am not on anybody's side. I have no particular loyalty to the barristers. But at the same time have to protect them from frivolous and inappropriate complaints."

He may be paid £50,000 a year by the Bar Council, but he is no "lackey". His first annual report didn't pull its punches over those barristers who made mistakes through incompetence or cutting corners. His comments that "arrogance and self-

importance result in rudeness and bombast" prompted one barrister to write, accusing him of "pandering" to the man in the street.

He received 532 complaints, the highest on record. The majority came from members of the public, but some were lodged by judges, the Legal Aid Board and solicitors. The most common complaints centred on neighbourhood, matrimonial and prisoners' disputes.

Many of the complaints arose from misunderstandings about a barrister's role and duties to the court and legal aid fund. But, of the 40 per cent of cases Scott referred to the Bar's Professional Conduct and Complaints Committee (PCC), about half were found to involve prima facie evidence of misconduct or inadequate service.

But Scott is keen to put his criticisms in perspective. "There are 9,400 barristers practising at the independent Bar. If each do on average 100 things a year that could be complained about, such as writing an opinion or representing someone in court, that represents one complaint per 1,700 actions."

"The poor old barrister is an easy target at the moment with talk of 'fat cats'. What the public doesn't realise is how difficult it is to become a barrister, how little you are paid at the bottom of the profession, and how much good work is done."

The only major change he is pressing for is the power to award compensation in cases of inadequate service. At the moment, compensation is limited to a maximum of £2,000 where the complainant can prove financial loss which would be recoverable in law.

"We can make barristers remit fees, which is fine as long as the complainant has been paying for the case. But where a case is legally aided, the remitted fees go back to the Legal Aid Board. The Bar Council has been against allowing us to award compensation without qualification, because they felt it would open the floodgates."



General Michael Scott, the legal services ombudsman: I have no particular loyalty to the barristers'

Neville Elder

## MICHAEL SCOTT'S TIPS FOR BARRISTERS

- Try saying sorry - it is not a legal admission of guilt
- There is no need to show off how clever you are
- Avoid jargon
- Make sure the client doesn't feel left out when you are consulting with their solicitor in their presence
- Always be sure that you pay your professional indemnity premiums on time

Not everyone is so enthusiastic about the Bar's self-regulatory procedures. Earlier this month, the Fabian society called for the Bar to be stripped of its complaint handling powers and replaced by an independent body along the lines of the General Medical Council. Chris Swinson, the new head of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, has proposed that there be an independent body to oversee all self-regulated professions.

But Scott defended the current system. "If anything, if you have 'chaps regulating chaps', you find they are much harder on their own than the public might think."

"I don't feel I am the last bastion between the bar and central regu-

lation. I think the Bar has got it right by recognising that unless they introduced a strong lay element, they could be vulnerable. I think it is ahead of the game."

He also warned against "jumping" solicitors and barristers together. "There is a danger in putting

us in the same camp as the Office of the Supervision of Solicitors. If solicitors and barristers weren't both called lawyers, they would be completely different professions."

He is prepared to take criticism on the chin. His office has been fined for delays in dealing with com-

plaints and he has had one case sent back to him for reconsideration by Abraham. He followed it up, confirmed the same result and is now waiting for her conclusions.

One ongoing criticism of the Bar's complaint system is that it focuses too heavily on whether the barrister is right or wrong, rather than on the effect on the complainant.

Mariene Winfield, senior policy advisor for legal services for the National Consumer Council, echoed that point. "He has done well to get the complaints system up and running but he is doing it with one hand tied behind his back, as he himself admits. The combination of an extremely high standard of proof, the fact that in order to get compensa-

tion you have to show actual loss, and the immunity barristers have for their performance in court, is not really in the spirit of a proper complaints procedure."

"Both solicitors and barristers will go to the wall and demand every one of their rights, which is not the way to deal with complaints if the emphasis is on client care."

However, Scott is under no illusions about what a complaint can mean to a barrister. "It can mean you will never make QC or judge, or solicitors might not instruct you. If you are suspended, that is your livelihood gone. What if it is not justified?"

GRANIA LANGDON-DOWN

## No bar to properly qualified solicitors

THE BAR has nothing to fear from competition. As I have said on many occasions, I do not oppose rights of audience for those who are properly trained, qualified and regulated.

Provided there is a level playing field, with proper safeguards to ensure quality and high standards, barristers have nothing to fear from fair competition from solicitors.

I welcome the Lord Chancellor's wish to work with the professions to develop a new framework and in particular his recognition that lawyers seeking to exercise rights of audience in the higher courts would need additional training.

I have been working on a simple framework which provides the same rights of audience for all lawyers, barristers and solicitors who are properly qualified.

On qualification, all lawyers would have rights of audience to a certain level, but to acquire rights of audience in the higher courts one would have to acquire the appropriate experience or training.

I am in the process of establishing a high-powered committee to provide a constructive response to the Lord Chancellor's proposals and examine ways in which we can promote the highest possible standards across the profession.

I should say, however,

### OUR LEARNED FRIEND



HEATHER HALLETT

that it is misleading to suggest that the Lord Chancellor's proposals will necessarily mean savings to the client because only one lawyer will be required. Any case which goes to court will still require preparation and presentation whether it is one, or two lawyers handling the case.

As far as the Crown Prosecution Service is concerned, I have two concerns. Firstly on practical grounds, at a time when the service already faces reorganisation it is not clear to me that it is sensible to be giving CPS lawyers additional tasks.

Secondly, as a matter of principle, I do oppose any changes which would substantially undermine

the role of the independent advocate. In the last six months as Chairman, I have visited a number of countries that have state-run prosecutors. Anyone who has studied the American system would have concerns. There is a tendency there for a state prosecutor to become too determined to achieve a conviction at all costs.

The Lord Chancellor proposes that CPS lawyers should take on cases in the Crown Court when appropriate. The difficulty comes in defining when it would be appropriate. I fear a situation when the Treasury, seeking to impose further financial constraints, puts pressure on the CPS to use their in-house lawyers more and more, whatever their level of experience.

It cannot be in the public interest to send an inexperienced lawyer to court to prosecute a serious criminal simply because it is thought that it would save money.

I welcome the Lord Chancellor's commitment to promoting quality and his support for a strong, independent Bar. I also share his belief that the best advocates will continue to specialise as barristers and that quality and high standards are maintained.

Heather Hallett QC is chairman of the Bar Council

## Lord Irvine says the Bar's open

The Lord Chancellor's reforms promise upheaval but equality for the profession

IT MAY not be as popular as either the World Cup or Wimbledon, but it seems that barracking and baiting barristers has been occupying the time of the Lord Chancellor and the media.

First it was the furore over the level of QCs' fees which led to an inquiry before five law lords in the House of Lords last week. Then the questions asked in the House of Commons by MP and solicitor Andrew Dismore on the propriety of Lord Neill QC being offered (and declining) the brief of Dame Shirley Porter in the appeal in the Westminster Council gerrymandering case. Barristers have never been so much on the defensive - and for their own cause.

But there is a greater threat to the Bar and its future. At present, barristers have a near monopoly to appear in cases heard in the higher courts in England and Wales. But all this will change if the reforms proposed by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg QC, in his consultation paper on the reform of rights of audience, are given the go-ahead.

In short, under the consultation paper published yesterday entitled *Rights of Audience and Rights to Conduct Litigation in England & Wales: The Way Ahead*, the Government's aims are to ensure that all qualified barristers and solicitors, including lawyers, can appear in the higher courts, provided that they have satisfied the appropriate criteria, and also to simplify the approval process for those ex-

tended rights of audience.

At present, 90 per cent of barristers and solicitors are excluded from appearing in the higher courts. This includes nearly all solicitors, as well as lawyers directly employed by Government departments, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), local authorities or in business. Only barristers in private practice and a few solicitor-advocates are allowed in.

As an indication of the possible impact of the proposed changes, there are over 71,000 practising solicitors in England and Wales, and 624 solicitor-advocates (about 90 of whom are in the CPS), and about 9,000 barristers in private practice.

The fear for the Bar is that competition in the courts will be overwhelming, and the possible

result will be an exodus from law firms and the CPS.

Lord Irvine said: "Change is long overdue. The perception has grown that the legal system is dominated by the interests of lawyers, rather than by the need to provide justice for the people."

"I have one clear aim: the establishment of a modern and fair system which will promote quality and choice for those who need the help of an advocate while, at the same time, providing value for money. Anti-qualified restrictions on which lawyers can appear in the higher courts, which force people to pay for two lawyers in cases where one would do, can have no place in this new system."

These radical proposals are not entirely unexpected. Behind the shake-up is the underlying message that both the Bar and

solicitors face an unprecedented period of upheaval, not only in how the profession is paid from the public purse, but also in how legal services are delivered generally.

Geoff Hoon, parliamentary secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department has already reinforced the Government line when he said that the Government's approach to legal reform is not "Will this harm the Bar?" but "Will it help more people?"

But as with most things legal, the devil is in the detail. Following the consultation period, legislation will be needed to amend current statutes and establish new bodies to deal with the changes, including a Legal Services Consultative Panel, which will replace the current Advisory Committee on

Legal Education and Conduct.

Perhaps the most interesting proposal in the paper is that the Lord Chancellor "could be given the power to abolish any lawyers' professional rule which was held to be anti-competitive or restrictive of rights of audience and if necessary to replace it with a rule drafted by the Lord Chancellor in consultation with the Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rules, the President of the Family Division and the Vice-Chancellor". This proposal seems to be in line with the view that if Lord Irvine is to get his reforms through, he will need to win the support of the judges.

In case the profession feels that their interests are not being taken account of, the Lord Chancellor has stressed that although it is important that opening up rights of audience has the support of the profession and the judiciary, "liberalisation is in the public interest".

But he has confirmed that he wishes to proceed by agreement with the professions. For any in the profession (and other interested parties) who feel that the LCD has not been sufficiently "open" about consultation on the proposals, they can access the consultation paper and contact the Lord Chancellor at the appropriate e-mail address on the internet: <http://www.open.gov.uk/lcd/index.htm>.

The consultation period will end on 14 September 1998.

LINDA TSANG

### BUT WHAT DO THE PROFESSIONALS THINK?

Mark Humphries, solicitor advocate and partner at City law firm Linklaters & Paines

"This is an extremely positive step. At Linklaters and similar firms, this is what we anticipated about a decade ago and have been planning for. The major law firms have vast resources of solicitors who until now have been thwarted in their attempts to provide a full service to their clients. The consultation paper suggests that within a short time, it will be possible to offer a fully integrated litigation and advocacy service to

clients, that is both beneficial to clients and to lawyers."

Barbara Mills, Director of Public Prosecutions

"I am extremely pleased with this announcement not only for the CPS but for all employed lawyers. We have been fighting for rights of audience for a very long time now. I am delighted to see that finally we will see CPS solicitors and barristers in the Crown Court. It is a great opportunity for the CPS, creating greater choice and competition in Crown Court advocacy."

Vicki Chapman, head of policy at the Legal Action Group

"This is excellent - if long overdue - news for consumers for two reasons: firstly, in many cases, it will be more appropriate for a solicitor who knows the case in detail to present it rather than handing it over to someone who may only see it the night before it goes to court. And the consumer will not be paying for two people. But this should not be seen as a backdoor way of cutting funds - where a specialist advocate is needed, legal aid should still be available."



# The profession's new face

Kamlesh Bahl, chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission, is running to be deputy vice-president of that white-male bastion, the Law Society. Commentators are rubbing their hands with glee. But will the legal world accept her? By John-Paul Flinthoff

**T**ake a look at this face: you'll be seeing it again. It's destined to make countless appearances on *Question Time*, *Newsnight*, and *Channel 4 News*. It will deliver opinions on a wide range of issues, with one specialist subject: the legal profession. But that's only if its owner, Kamlesh Bahl, can pull off the relatively modest achievement of election to the position of deputy vice-president of the Law Society.

To the media, Bahl's face is the stuff of dreams. It's not white, and nor does it belong to a man. Bahl presents a refreshing change from the endless parade of white men summoned to pronounce on matters of national importance. Especially legal affairs – an area in which white men exert an even stronger than usual pre-eminence.

Not that Bahl exactly constitutes a novelty act. She's already amassed considerable experience in media relations, having served since 1993 as chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission. "I have the hide of a rhino," she says of her current job. "It's my task to be a public figure."

She's even been used as the model for a character in Britain's favourite radio soap: *The Archers* were looking to introduce a female Asian solicitor, she says. "They contacted me and sat me down and told me to tell them about my background." The result: legal aid litigator Usha Gupta becoming a regular fixture at Ambridge.

Sitting in her vast London office (the main one is in Manchester), Bahl explains that being dark-skinned and female has not always been an advantage. Far from it. She first came across discrimination immediately after leaving Birmingham University, where she had done rather well.

"People told me to apply to big firms, with good prospects. I made 250 applications – at a time when there was a shortage of articulated clerks – and had lots of interviews, but got just one offer. That, she says, is the worst discrimination she's suffered personally, but through her job at the EOC – which funds some 50 per cent of cases sent from Britain to the European Court of Justice – she's gained plenty of second-hand experience. "I still get letters from people who have made 250 applications today," she says solemnly. "I don't think the landscape has changed very much, there are just better support groups."

All of which makes Bahl sound encouragingly right-on. Perfect for dealing with a Labour government which has already flagged its contempt for the profession by leaking to the press radical proposals for legal aid, a day before announcing them to the Solicitors' Annual Conference.

But Bahl is not, in fact, even remotely left-wing. Let's not forget, the government which appointed her to the EOC was Conservative. "This job was advertised and I decided to have a go," she remembers. "There were two interviews, one with a junior minister and civil servants, and the next with (the then Secretary of State) Gillian Shepherd and about ten civil servants. That was tough, they really grilled you! But she obviously performed satisfactorily. Against competition from 250 (that number again) other candidates, Bahl became, at 36, the organisation's youngest-ever head, and the first from an ethnic minority.

In person, she's drily persuasive, issuing forth a steady stream of common sense. Though she smiles warmly, the overall effect, enhanced by a neat suit and spectacles, is seriousness. Similarly, her background is safely "Establishment". One uncle was chief justice in Kenya; and her father – who brought the family to Britain in the mid-60s, when Kamlesh was nine – was a civil servant. Even her quirky hobbies have respectable explanations. Bahl recently started taking lessons in singing and playing the harmonium, a reed organ used a lot in Indian music. "To develop a better appreciation of music," she reveals. "That was one of my New Year's resolutions."

She's done well, and she knows it. "When I was appointed, the EOC was seen as a marginal, left-wing, irrelevant organisation. It was not consulted before decisions were made. It did not have good relationships with government or employers. Under my leadership, it has been transformed from an organisation under threat into a highly respected and credible body with an excellent international reputation." (Even if she does say so herself). It's not just the EOC which has benefited from her input. Among other achievements, Bahl is a board member of two health authorities, a governor of the University of Westminster, a member of the council of Justice – oh, and a member of the Law Society's council since 1990. Over the years, she has collected an impressive list of high-



Kamlesh Bahl, upon whom the character in *'The Archers'* is based, claims she has 'the hide of a rhino'

level contacts, including the Prime Minister's wife (a leading employment lawyer), the head of the CBI, Adair Turner, and John Monks at the TUC. The former Tory Employ-

ment Secretary, Lord Hunt of Wirral – himself a solicitor – remains a fan, pronouncing himself "very impressed" by her.

There's only so much to achieve,

career-wise, at the Equal Opportunities Commission. Bahl was appointed CBE last year, and next year she's standing down. All being well, she should by then have served for

a year as deputy vice-president at the Law Society. After a further year as vice-president, she could take over as president in July 2000. Slow progress, perhaps, but that shows

she's aware of the challenge facing her: the Law Society budget is ten times as big as the EOC's, and while the EOC has just four offices (the main one in Manchester), the Law Society has them dotted all over the country.

Bahl has planned her campaign with care. To minimise the prospect of a challenge, she announced her candidacy as long ago as October, and has consistently eschewed alignment with any particular "ticket". After all, Law Society elections have not, historically, been contested. But in 1995, the maverick from East Anglia, Martin Mears, came from nowhere to win the presidency, and now a friend of Mears, Huddersfield solicitor David Keating, has stood against Bahl.

Keating says he was urged to stand because Bahl lacks the necessary experience. Her entire career, he says, has involved working as an "employed" solicitor for the GLC, the still-nationalised British Steel, and in the private sector. In other words, she's never worked at a law firm. "And for five years," Keating adds, "she has been chairwoman of a quango, not working as a solicitor as such." (To many people, that hardly disqualifies her.)

"Ask her what her actual policies are," says Keating. It's fair to say that on this point, Bahl is vague. She worries about the Society's conflict of interest as regulator of solicitors and also their "trade union". She wants members of the council to have a "fuller" role. And she predicts competition from unfamiliar quarters "Sainsbury's has already done petrol and pharmacies," she says. "I think legal services are just around the corner."

Bahl is full of these interesting notions. She says of herself: "I do give it my everything. There are days when people here say: 'You are not allowed to have any more ideas.'"

Keating concedes that she's "a very able person, very pleasant". But that, he says, is not enough. The Law Society needs strong leadership, after going through some terrible times. An ill-fated computer project for high street solicitors recently wasted hundreds of thousands of pounds. The Solicitors Indemnity Fund, a £1 insurance scheme into which all firms must contribute, found itself £500m short. And the government's legal aid proposals require close scrutiny. But in the end – let's face it – Bahl's only standing for deputy vice-president. If solicitors are unhappy with her performance in that junior position, there's a simple solution: they

## BRIEFS

IN ADDITION to publishing his consultation paper on the reform of rights of audience yesterday, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, also published a paper earlier this week entitled *Justice at the Right Price*. In the paper, he unveiled details of the Lord Chancellor's Department's plans to delay the introduction of fixed pretrial legal costs in fast track cases so that the department can carry out a fundamental review into why the cost of litigation is so high. The consultation paper also includes proposals to introduce proportionality into the civil

justice system – that is, to introduce a link between the value claims and the costs of pursuing a claim in the civil courts.

Under the proposals, recoverable legal costs by lawyers would be capped at a maximum of 50 per cent of the award or claim, with a possible exemption in personal injury cases.

City law firm Ashurst Morris Crisp's managing partner Ian Nisse has received a poison pen letter, which is purportedly written by a member of his staff. The letter – which was leaked to the legal press – accuses

him of allowing partners greater profits while giving many staff no pay rise this year. Ashurst's senior partner Andrew Soundy said the firm had not taken the matter seriously because the letter was anonymous and was "not representative of an organisation of more than 1,000 people."

And at the end of a busy week for the Lord Chancellor, he ended the week as the recipient last night of *The Lawyer Personality of the Year* award at a dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel, attended by over 1000 legal luminaries. The

firm which has acted for Chris Evans in his bid for Virgin Radio and also for *The Guardian* in the libel case brought by former MP Jonathan Aitken won the overall award for Law Firm of the Year – Olswang. The legal profession's equivalent of the Oscars also had Cherie Booth QC as the chair of its judging panel, and a flurry of rumours that at one firm from the Big Five law firms, staff had been handed fortune cookies to try and improve the chances of the firm winning one of the awards.

LINDA TSANG

## You'll never work in this business again

Protection for whistle-blowers is planned. About time, says Roger Trapp

WHEN DR Andrew Millar voiced his concerns about the way in which the pharmaceuticals company British Biotech was expanding, he risked everything. He was dismissed in April from his post as the company's head of clinical trials and faces a High Court claim for undisclosed damages stemming from his alleged breach of confidentiality.

Similarly, Steve Bolsin, the anaesthetist who raised concerns about the mortality rate for children's heart operations at the Bristol Royal Infirmary that contributed to the General Medical Council's disciplinary action against three surgeons, says he was told that if he valued his position he would not be doing "this sort of thing" again. Now working in Australia, he claims that his concerns were ignored and he was smugged by the "old boy" network while the operations continued for six years.

However, if a bill currently going through Parliament becomes law, they – and others like them – should not have to contend with such difficulties. The Public Interest Disclosure Bill, which is supported by Lord Borrie, the former Director General of Fair Trading, and Lord Nolan, ex-chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, and is due to receive its third reading in the House of Commons next Monday, is designed to protect whistleblowers from dismissal and victimisation when they try to report malpractice in public, private and voluntary-sector workplaces.

One of its most significant provisions is the introduction of full compensation for those who lose their jobs after speaking out against wrongdoing in their workplaces.

Dr Millar, who next Wednesday is due to attend an inquiry into the events at British Biotech and their impact on the biotechnology industry by the House of Commons' science and technology committee, feels that such protection is long overdue.

Claiming that in other countries the system is geared more towards the individual, he says that the emphasis on confidentiality in the British culture can be difficult to challenge.

"It's all-embracing," he says, adding that, while it can be understandable if the aim is to protect patents and other forms of intellectual property, it is "obviously quite different if confidentiality is being used to prevent disclosure of iniquities." He now faces losing his home after his former employer issued a High Court writ earlier this month – though he himself has launched a claim for £180,000 compensation for the loss of his notice period and "stigma damages" relating to his inability to find another job.

It is a longstanding point of law that there can be no confidentiality in "iniquity", but it is hard to establish such a serious instance of wrongdoing in practice. Moreover, an organisation that feels its reputation is at stake can have recourse to such powerful resources, such as top-flight lawyers, that the average employee is likely to



Dr Andrew Millar

think long and hard before seeking to alert superiors or outside authorities to their concerns.

The United States has long had the reputation for offering the greatest support to would-be whistleblowers of this sort. Various acts protect those wishing to report suspicions of wrongdoing, especially as they apply to the federal government in general and the Pentagon in particular.

Tom Devine, legal director of the Government Accountability Project, says that the past 30 years have seen a number of significant victories for whistleblowers, including the exposure of the lax procurement policies at the Defence Department that created "the world's most expensive coffee pots, toilet seats, nuts, bolts, armrests and similar appliances", forced the shutdown of a nuclear weapons plant that had released more than 500,000lbs of radioactive emissions – more than was dropped on Hiroshima – in the environment around Cincinnati, Ohio,

and secured the conviction of an Oklahoma bureaucrat who hired newly-graduated high-school girls for administrative work and then assigned them to "date" state officials at a political convention.

Encouraged by this experience, Public Concern at Work, a British charity set up in 1993 to encourage employees to report the actions of rogue employers, has largely been the driving force behind the Public Interest Disclosure Bill.

Guy Dehn, the organisation's director, says that – if enacted in full – it could even provide a lead for the United States to follow. He points to how Mr Devine says in his testimony that the Bill provides greater comprehensive protection for workers than is currently the case in the States; protects disclosures made by whistleblowers to their lawyers; covers violations of other countries' laws; and gives protection to gagging clauses in employee contracts.

Even if the Bill is passed, though, it will not come into law until early next year. So, it is unlikely to be of much help to Dr Millar who has admitted that it is "inconceivable" that he will regain his post and the comfortable lifestyle that accompanied it unless the company's board changes.

But it could encourage more people to come forward and become the "human checks and balances" that Mr Devine believes are "indispensable for a credible system of accountability against bureaucratic abuses of power."

## CLASSIFIED

### Legal Notices

No. 003355 of 1998  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
COMPANIES COURT  
IN THE MATTER OF MAC COAL  
SALES COMPANY LIMITED  
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE  
COMPANIES ACT 1985  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN  
that a Petition was presented to Her  
Majesty's High Court of Justice,  
Chancery Division on 11 June 1998  
for the confirmation of the  
cancellation of the share premium  
account of the above-named  
Company in the sum of  
US\$286,800.71.  
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER  
GIVEN that the said Petition is  
directed to be heard before the  
Companies Court Registrar at the  
Royal Courts of Justice, Strand,  
London WC2A 2LL on 8 July 1998.  
Any creditor or shareholder of the  
said Company desiring to oppose  
the making of an Order for the  
confirmation of the said  
cancellation of share premium  
account should appear at the time of  
the hearing in person or by Counsel  
for that purpose.  
A copy of the said Petition will be  
furnished in any person requiring  
the same by the under-mentioned  
Solicitors on payment of the  
regulated charge for the same.  
Dated this 25th day of June 1998  
The Law Society  
21 Farringdon Street  
London EC4A 4TL  
Ref: AOA  
Solicitors for the Company

### The Insolvency Act 1986 JUNIPER CONSERVATORIES LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant  
to Section 56 of the Insolvency Act  
1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors  
of the above-named Company will be  
held at 5 Park Court, Park Road,  
West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6SD on  
the 15th day of July 1998 at 10.30  
am. For the purpose mentioned in  
Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency  
Act 1986 and Rule 4.127 of The  
Insolvency Rules 1986.  
Creditors are only entitled to vote at  
the Meeting if a proof of debt, acceptable to the liquidator, is presented to  
him not later than 10.30 am on 14th July 1998.  
A list of names and addresses of the  
company's creditors will be available  
for inspection free of charge, for the  
two business days prior to the  
Meeting at Gibson Hewitt & Co, 5  
Park Court, Park Road, West  
Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6SD  
Dated this 17th day of June 1998  
By Order of the Board  
D. Griffiths, Director

### Charities

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## NEW FILMS

## PONETTE (PG)

Director: Jacques Dolton  
Starring: Victoire Thivisol, Marie Trintignant, Claire Nebout (subtitles)  
Ponette is a precociously intelligent four-year-old girl whose mother dies in a car accident. As the implications of mortality begin to dawn on the child, she takes some comfort in the rituals of religion which she has absorbed, and accordingly awaits her parent's imminent resurrection.

The young Victoire Thivisol shows a preternatural comprehension of acting technique, though this isn't exactly a recommendation of the film - bizarre as it might seem to commend an actress for being too good, it's hard to deny a distinct discomfort at watching one so young parade emotion this raw and primal.

It doesn't help matters that Ponette, while tenderly photographed, has nothing very sophisticated to say about grief or childhood - you never get the feeling that you're in the hands of a confident or challenging artist. Perhaps the film's failure to engage finally comes down to the fact that when adults are good, they're very, very good, but when children are good, they're creepy.

## JOURNEY TO THE BEGINNING

## OF THE WORLD (U)

Director: Manoel de Oliveira  
Starring: Marcello Mastroianni, Jean-Yves Escoffier, Leonor Silveira (subtitles)  
Featuring Marcello Mastroianni's final performance, this seasoned picture's lament that "the mind can be fine, but the wrapping deteriorates" doesn't apply to the man himself. His disposition, wise and sunny but flecked with both mischief and weariness, is unchanged; he still looks like a man who has been benignly trailing heavy luggage for all eternity without complaint.

But the picture, by the 90-year-old film-maker Manoel de Oliveira, is a grave disappointment. It's a commentary on life and experience through the travels of Manoel, the elderly Portuguese director played by Mastroianni (guess who that's based on?), and his young French companions.

## PALMETTO (15)

Director: Volker Schlöndorff  
Starring: Woody Harrison, Elisabeth Shue, Gina Gershon  
Each week seems to see the release of yet another ironic modern film noir, the latest edition to the genre being *Palmetto*, directed by Volk-

er Schlöndorff (*The Tin Drum*), but badly missing the wit and precision of John Dahl. Harry Barber (*Woody Harrison*) is the ex-writer and ex-con who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women - a glamorous millionaire's wife (Elisabeth Shue) and her stepdaughter, Odette (Claire Sevigny).

## GOING ALL THE WAY (15)

Director: Mark Pellington  
Starring: Jeremy Davies, Ben Affleck, Amy Locane, Rachel Weisz, Rose McGowan  
This is an occasionally moving rite-of-passage drama with committed performances from Jeremy Davies and Ben Affleck as two soldier buddies returning to their home town.

## THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Director: Nicholas Hytner  
Starring: Jennifer Aniston, Paul Rudd, Alan Alda, John Pankow  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right

## MIMIC (15)

Director: Guillermo Del Toro  
Starring: Guillermo Del Toro, Jeremy Northam, Josh Brolin  
Ingenious science-fiction-horror fable from the director of the excellent vampire movie, *Cronos*. Mira Sorvino is a doctor who successfully combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival cockroach species to wipe out the original disease-carriers, in the process inadvertently creating a breed which can assume human form.

## GIRLS' NIGHT (15)

Director: Nick Hurran  
Starring: Julie Walters, Brenda Blethyn, Kris Kristofferson  
Shameless tearjerker with Brenda Blethyn as the cancer-suffering bingo winner who jets off to Las Vegas for a last-chance holiday with her sister-in-law (Julie Walters) and meets a wrinkled rodeo-ster (Kris Kristofferson). Initially bubbly, the picture soon turns grossly manipulative.

## THE WAR AT HOME (18)

Director: Emilio Estevez  
Starring: Emilio Estevez, Martin Sheen, Kathy Bates, Kimberly Williams  
Adapted from James Duff's Broadway play, *Homefront*, *The War at Home* is about a

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



## Film Ryan Gilbey

THE REACTION to *Gummo* (left) was predictably mixed, but this harsh, experimental portrait of white-trash youth was generally better received than Larry Clark's *Kids*. That film was scripted by the impish young Harmony Korine, who wrote and directed *Gummo* and makes a memorable appearance as a drunk making sexual advances to a gay dwarf. Also featured: dead cats, a boy who wanders the streets in pink rabbit ears, lots that's pretentious, and more that's compelling.

Oxford Phoenix: (01865-554909) 11.30pm  
All the huffing and puffing that the makers of *The Object of my Affection* put into the film's romantic complications makes you recoil. Better to enjoy the glorious supporting performances: Alan Alda as an egotistical agent, Allison Janney as his brittle wife, and Nigel Hawthorne as a critic. On release

## Theatre Dominic Cavendish

THE OLD NEIGHBOURHOOD (*below*), a trilogy detailing the homecoming of a middle-aged Jewish man, is the closest David Mamet has come to putting his life on stage, but it's no exercise in navel-gazing. Gripping performances, particularly from Zoë Wanamaker, unleash the torrents of emotion swelling behind Mamet's wry, well-wrought dialogue.

Royal Court at the Duke of York's, London WC2 (0171-565 5000) 7.30pm  
Watching and Weighing by Susan Goff concludes a season of new works at Hull Truck. This comic monologue, about a wife who blames her husband's adultery on her thighs, highlights the downside of fitness and dieting regimes. It runs in tandem with John Godber's



## The Weed - looking at the male

equivalent - body-building.

Hull Truck Theatre, Spring St, Hull

(01482 323638) 8pm

## Classical

## Duncan Hadfield

One, two or even three of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos are not that difficult to encounter in Baroque music programmes. But it's rare to be able to hear all six at a single sitting, partly because of the different instrumental combinations each calls for. Those present no problems, though, for one of our best period ensembles - The English Concert (*right*), directed by Trevor Pinnock in a City of London Festival concert from the splendid setting of Goldsmith's Hall, Goldsmith's Hall, Foster Lane, London EC4 (0171-638 8891) 8pm.



## Pop Tim Perry

PLAYING LIVE has always been one of the strengths of cosmopolitan four-piece *Drugs* (*right*), and for this late-night show they should be in top form as they prepare for Glastonbury and a seven-week tour of the USA to promote their fine *White Magic for Lovers* album. Fronting the blend of fuzzy guitar and whirling cello is live Brazilian singer Isabel Monteiro, a woman who knows how to work up a crowd. *Middlesbrough Arena* (01642 251854) tonight. Doors open 9pm. £3 before 10pm, £4 before 10.30pm, £5 after. Veteran worldbeat musician Taj Mahal, always rises to the live occasion and draws a local following. Expect every corner of ethnic American music to be explored and then fused with African and Caribbean



## GENERAL RELEASE

## AFTERGLOW (15)

Two couples swap partners and wry aphorisms in the latest urban romantic comedy from writer-director Alan Rudolph.

## THE APOSTLE (12)

Director Robert Duvall plunges into his role in a manner that is both terrifying and entrancing.

## THE BIG SWAP (18)

Draw, unconvincing and preachy drama played out against Sunday supplement locations.

## THE BUTCHER BOY (15)

Neil Jordan's film of Patrick McCabe's blackly comic novel about a maniac, precocious 12 year old in 1960s Ireland has a macabre thrill about it that is genuinely seductive.

## CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan).

## DAD SAUSAGE (18)

Patrick Stewart sheds his *Star Trek* image to play a tulip-growing, Country & Western-obsessed East Anglian crime boss in this stab at re-inventing the British thriller.

## DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Here's a recipe for disaster. Take a suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a month to live and give them some time on the road together before an inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with a sick-bag at the ready. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream with the Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success refreshing and deserved.

## FISTS IN THE POCKET (NC)

A new print of Marco Bellocchio's 1966 classic.

## THE FULL MONTY (15)

Re-release of the British blockbuster in which redundant steelworkers turn to stripping.

## THE GENERAL (15)

John Boorman's best film in two decades charts the career of Dublin gangster Martin Cahill, who ran rings round the Garda with a series of heists before the IRA put him out of business in 1994.

## THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

A jaunty if unoriginal take on the rites-of-passage genre, set in Leicester at the start of the 1970s. The lively script is complimented by the performance of young actress Joanna Ward, who sparkles as the film's heroine.

## THE GRASS HARP (PG)

An adaptation of Capote's novel about lives and loves in a southern American town in the 1940s. A fine cast has been assembled to little effect.

## THE HANGING GARDEN (15)

Gay hero, Sweet William, returns home for the wedding of his sister (Kerry Fox), who is marrying the boy that William once had a crush on, in this disarming drama.

## THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (18)

A mangled and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film amounts to the same Beat clichés: blue smoke, white vests and black coffee, *manana*.

## LIVE FLESH (18)

A novel by Ruth Rendell is the unlikely origin of Pedro Almodóvar's most accomplished film to date, though the action has been shifted to Madrid and crammed with sexual symbolism so potent it leaves you reeling.

## THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS (U)

A welcome re-release for Orson Welles' 1942 masterpiece about a wealthy family whose conflicting emotions tear them apart.

## MY SON THE FANATIC (15)

Hanif Kureishi sets up an opposition between a progressive Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who is set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim.

## NOWHERE (18)

One-man film factory Gregg Araki returns to the nihilistic landscape of *The Doom Generation* with another hallucinatory journey through an LA underground inhabited by young ambisexual drifters, sado-masochists and a few aliens.

## POINT BLANK (18)

Re-release of John Boorman's finest film, a chilling existential thriller with Lee Marvin as the gangster Walker.

## THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)

Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat as a hitman with a conscience.

## SAVIOR (18)

Politically inept war film set during the Bosnian conflict. Dennis Quaid stars as a man who loses his family in a Paris bomb blast and then avenges their deaths by strolling into a mosque and gunning down a row of Muslims at prayer.

## THE SCARLET TUNIC (12)

Worthy drama boasting a sparkling performance from Simon Callow.

## SOUL FOOD (15)

A black version of  *Parenthood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies.

## STAR KID (PG)

Amiable children's adventure about a young boy who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget it makes up for in imagination.

## STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)

Spook of the Merchant-Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *Leon the Pig Farmer*.

## THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)

The winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, and it's not hard to see why. In *Paris* - an Iranian man drives around the outskirts of Tehran looking for someone to help him commit suicide - but thanks to naturalistic performances, it's hypnotic and moving.

## A THOUSAND ACRES (15)

Jessica Lange and Michelle Pfeiffer play sisters who rebel against their father, but their talents are wasted here.

## TITANIC (12)

Rose (Kate Winslet) is about to marry into obscene wealth, but has deserted her fiancé at the last minute for Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio), a rags-to-riches from the wrong side of the tracks.

## WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG)

The story of the moosey New York heiress (Jennifer Jason Leigh) whose dowry father (Albert Finney) forbids her marriage to a dashing but penniless suitor (Ben Chaplin).

## THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy about a romantic wedding singer (*Saturday Night Live*'s Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's engaged to someone else.

## WEST END NUMBERS

(0171) except where noted;  
Some agents may levy a  
booking fee.  
ABC Bakers (0870-902 0418);  
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ABC Bakers (0870-902 0418);  
ABC Bakers (0870-902 0418);  
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ABC Bakers (0870-902 0418);  
ABC Bakers (0870-902 0418);  
ABC Bakers (0870-902 0418);  
ABC Bakers (0870-902 0418);

1721: Curzon West End Open  
autumn 1998; Empire Leicester  
Square (0900-888990); Gate Notting  
Hill 727 4043; Metro 734 1502; Notting  
Hill Coronet 727 6705; Odeon  
Camden Town 0181-315 4212;  
Odeon Leicester Square 0181-315 4212;  
Odeon Leicester Square 0181-315 4212;  
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Odeon Leicester Square 0181-315 4212;  
Odeon Leicester Square 0181-315 4212;

315 4221; Phoenix 0181-888 2223;  
Plaza 0900-888990; Renzo 857  
8402; Richmond Picturehouse 0181-  
332 0000; Rio 254 6977; Ruby 733  
2228; Screen on Baker St 595  
2772; Screen on the Green 226  
5520; Screen on the Hill 435 3906;  
UCI Whiteleys 0900-888 990;  
Virgin Cinema 0870-907 0710;  
Virgin Cinema 0870-907 0710;  
Virgin Cinema 0870-907 0710;  
Virgin Cinema 0870-907 0710;  
Virgin Cinema 0870-907 0710;  
Virgin Cinema 0870-907 0710;  
Virgin Cinema 0870-907 0710;  
Virgin Cinema 0870-907 0710;  
Virgin Cinema 0870-907 0710;  
Virgin Cinema 0870-907 0710;

CINEMA  
WEST END

## AFTERGLOW (15)

Richmond Picturehouse 3.45pm, 8.15pm

## THE APOSTLE (12)

Clapham Picture House 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm; Empire Leicester Square 3pm, 11.10pm

## AS GOOD AS IT GETS (15)

ABC Panton Street 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

## BALTO (U)

Ritz Cinema 6.30pm, 11.50pm (Short: Magic Moments)

## THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)

Warner Village West End 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.30pm, 12.10am; Odeon Camden Town 1.15pm, 5.50pm; ABC Panton Street 1.15pm, 4.00pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm; Virgin Fulham Road 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

## THE BIG SWAP (18)

Plaza 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm

## CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Ritz Cinema 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm, 11.25pm; Odeon Camden Town 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm; Odeon Kensington 7pm, 9.40pm, 12.20am; Warner Village West End 12.30pm, 1.40pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm, 8.30pm, 9.20pm, 11.15pm, 12.10am; Odeon Marble Arch 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm; Barbican Screen 6.15pm, 8.40pm; Clapham Picture House 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm; Notting Hill Coronet 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm; Virgin Fulham Road 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm; ABC Baker Street 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm; UCI Whiteleys 3.15pm, 5pm, 8.45pm; ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm; Virgin Haymarket 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm

## CITIZEN KANE (U)

ABC Panton St 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm

## DARK CITY (15)

Virgin Trocadero 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm; Odeon Camden Town 11.25pm; Warner Village West End 1.30pm, 6.50pm

## DECONSTRUCTING

Barry (18)  
ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

## DEEP IMPACT (12)

Virgin Fulham Road 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm; UCI Whiteleys 3.50pm, 6.25pm; Empire Leicester Square 6.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm, 11.20pm; Warner Trocadero 12.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm, 11.30pm

## DREAM WITH THE

FISHES (18)  
Metro 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

## THE GIRL WITH BRAINS

IN HER FEET (15)  
Rio Cinema 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

## GIRLS' NIGHT (15)

Virgin Haymarket 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm; Warner Village West End 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8pm, 11.35pm; UCI Whiteleys 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm; Virgin Fulham Road 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.20pm; Barbican Screen 6.15pm, 8.40pm

## GOING ALL THE WAY (15)

Odeon Piccadilly 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

## GOOD WILL HUNTING (15)

ABC Panton Street 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm

## HAPPY TOGETHER (15)

ABC Swiss Centre 6.20pm

## JACKIE BROWN (15)

Plaza 4.15pm, 7.40pm

## JOURNEY TO THE BEGINNING

OF THE WORLD (U)  
Renzo 2.80pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

## JUNK MAIL (15)

Ritz Cinema 2pm

## KUNDTIN (12)

ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 8.20pm

## THE LAST TIME I

COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)  
ABC Piccadilly 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

## LIVE FLESH (18)

Gate Notting Hill 6.40pm; Curzon Minerva 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm; Ritz Cinema 7.05pm (Short: Magic Moments); Screen on Baker Street 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm; Odeon Camden Town 2.55pm, 5.30pm; Richmond Picturehouse 8.45pm; ABC Shaftesbury Avenue 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

## LOLITA (18)

Warner Village West End 11.40am, 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm

## MARTHA - MEET FRANK,

DANIEL & LAURENCE (15)  
ABC Swiss Centre 3.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm

## MIMIC (15)

Virgin Cinema 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm; Odeon Marble Arch 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm, 11.45pm; Odeon Camden Town 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 9.10pm, 11.30pm; Warner Village West End 1.20pm, 3.55pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm, 11.30pm; Virgin Trocadero 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8pm, 11.40pm; UCI Whiteleys 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

## MY SON THE FANATIC (15)

ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 5.10pm, 9.10pm

## THE OBJECT OF MY

AFFECTION (15)  
Phoenix Cinema 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm; UCI Whiteleys 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm; Odeon Kensington 6.50pm, 9.35pm, 12.15am; Screen on Baker Street 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm; Ritz Cinema 4.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9pm, 11.35pm; ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.25pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm; Odeon Camden Town 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9pm; Odeon West End 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm, 11.45pm; Odeon Marble Arch 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm, 11.45pm; Screen on the Hill 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm; Virgin Cinema 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm

## PALMETTO (15)

UCI Whiteleys 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm; Warner Village West End 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 8.50pm, 11.40pm; Virgin Trocadero 1.30pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm; Virgin Fulham Road 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

## POINT BLANK (18)

Gate Notting Hill 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.55pm; Ritz Cinema 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm, 11.40pm (Short: Green Magic) Screen on the Green 4.50pm, 9pm, 11.15pm

## PONETTE (15)



# FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

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# FRIDAY RADIO

## PICK OF THE DAY

ONE OF the most interesting (and least palatable) aspects of the classic Walt Disney cartoons is the women characters - broadly speaking, they divide into lovely, innocent young things (Snow White, Cinderella, Alice) or ironclad superbitches (the Wicked Queen, Cruella De Vil).

In Disney's *Women* (7pm R2), Brian Sibley examines the relationship between the women in the life of Walt Disney (right) and the women in his art, with frank contributions from his daughter, Diane Disney Miller. It's a fascinating exercise, though you suspect it's going to be overstretched as a six-parter. The BBC Archive (2pm R3) is devoted to the underrated English composer Benjamin Frankel, who died 25 years ago. He was a dominant force in British film music, but his spikily accessible concert work has only recently found an audience.



ROBERT HANKS

the arch-serialist Milton Babbitt (Septet but Equal and 'Four Play') and the systemless 'tuleites' Morton Feldman (Instruments 1 and Three Clarinets, Cello and Piano). The Composers' Ensemble is conducted by Paul Zukovsky, who has worked closely with both composers.

the most important musical innovations of the century - the long-playing record, which has now virtually disappeared from the shops.

Greg Wise, abridged in ten parts by Michele Wandor. The offer of a job in Paris takes Julien away from the seminary. He decides to visit Mme de Renal secretly on the way (5/10).

11.30 The Beat of My Heart.  
12.00 Composer of the Week: Beethoven. (R)

7.45 Under One Roof: I Never Promised You a Rose Garden. Sally Worbey's series is based on the original stories by Michele Hanson. Everything in the garden is not quite as lovely as Gillian and her boyfriend would like, as he sets to work to create an Eden in the suburbs and battles with major resistance from Bernice and Chloe. With Paola Dionisotti and Edna Dora.

11.00 Late Tackle. Martin Bashir and guests including comedian Tony Hawks get together for a spot of late-night conversation in this Wimbledon special.

11.30 The Beat of My Heart.  
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## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

### CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

IN THE late Sixties, the Yugoslav grandmaster Dragoljub Velimirovic came up with an exciting new way to attack the Sicilian. His basic recipe was simple: castle long, then play g4, g5, Rhg1, Rg3, Qh5, Rh3 and mate on h7. The thrills came with the added ingredients when the attack needed reinforcements: despite the black pawn on e6, he would fearlessly sacrifice a piece with Nf5 or Nd5, for nothing more than an open line or a bigger share of the initiative.

with 17.Rh3 g6 18.Bxc6 Bxc6 19.Nh6+ Kg7 20.Qd3 Be8. After 17.Nxg7 Kxg7 18.Qh5, however, Black's position was precarious. 18...bxc6 would have been met by 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 f6g6 21.Rxg6+! Kf7 (Nxg6 leads to a quick mate after Qxg6+!) 22.Rg7+ Kf8 23.Bxc5. As the game went, the crucial moment came with 19.Bxe6! Black had to try 19...Nxe6 20.Nd5 Qd8 21.Nf6! Nf8 when he may be able to defend. As the game went, White's attack quickly became too strong. In the final position 24...Nx7 25.Qx7+ Kh8 26.Bd4+ forces mate.

Gradually, the best defensive methods were worked out for Black, the most sober of which involved declining all White's gifts and getting on as quickly as possible with a counter-attack on the other wing. As today's game shows, however, there is still life in the Velimirovic Attack.

Black ignored 13.Nf5, (13...gxf5 14.Nd5 Qd8 15.gxf5 is difficult to defend, and ignored 14.Bd5 (14...exd5 15.Nxd5 leaves White in total control) and after 16...b4 White had three minor pieces under attack.

His 17.Nxg7 was the first move new to theory. In an earlier game White had got nowhere special

White: Alexei Fedorov  
Black: Mikhail Kobalaya  
Russian Club Cup 1998

1 e4 e5 13 Nf5 b5  
2 Nf3 d6 14 Bb5 Bb7  
3 d4 cxd4 15 g5 Rf8  
4 Nxd4 Nf8 16 Rg3 b4  
5 Nc3 Ne6 17 Nxg7 Kxg7  
6 Bc4 e6 18 Qh5 Rg8  
7 Be3 a6 19 Bxe6 bxc3  
8 Qe2 Qc7 20 Bx7 Qa5  
9 0-0 Be7 21 Rh3 Kf8  
10 Bb3 0-0 22 Rf3 Ne5  
11 Rhg1 Nd7 23 Bb5+ Kg7  
12 g4 Nc5 24 Rx7+ resigns

### BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

"MY LAST train leaves at 11.48pm," East volunteered helpfully, during an interminable trance by declarer over his play to trick one on this early evening deal. Very witty, but South had something to think about. There were a variety of ways in which to tackle the hand, but he finally arrived at the best solution.

Love all; dealer South

North  
♠ A 8  
♥ A Q 7 2  
♦ J 5  
♣ A 9 4 3 2

South opened One No-trump (12-14 points) and, after a fruitless Stayman enquiry by North, ended in Three No-trumps against which West led ♠ J. Yes, there were adequate values and eight top tricks, but what was the best bet for a ninth? Thinking clearly, South finally won the opening lead in hand and cashed ♠ K. When both opponents followed suit, he knew that he was home. Irrespective of the distribution of the outstanding clubs, he could now guarantee four tricks in the suit, even if it was at the expense of one of his heart winners.

I would hate to meet this hand in a pairs contest where overtricks are important. I am quite sure that, trying for the maximum, I would go down.

At trick three, declarer led a low heart to the queen, blocking the suit, and continued with a low club towards his jack. If West held all the missing clubs and took his queen, the rest of the suit could be picked up with a marked finesse. As it

was, East went in with ♠ Q and returned a spade. Declarer won on the table, cashed ♠ J and, after overtaking a heart honour in dummy, was able to collect two more club tricks and his contract. As you can see, he ended with only three of his apparently certain four heart tricks.

### PUZZLE

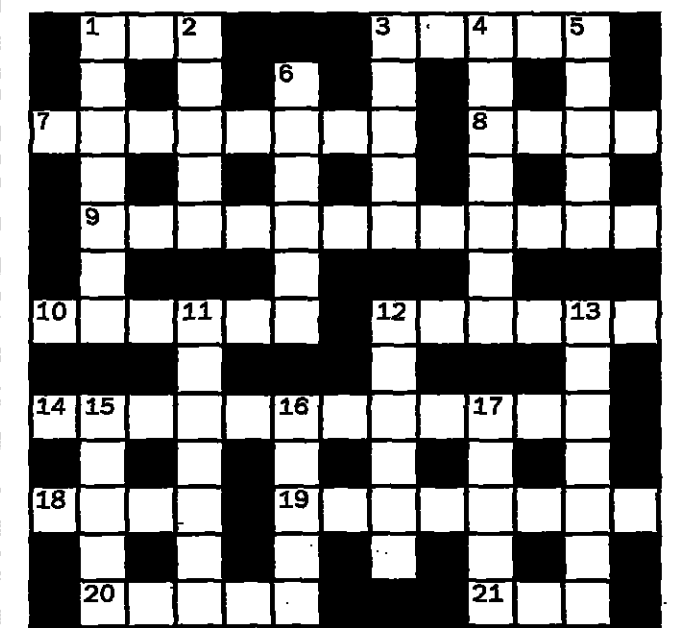
WE ARE grateful to Rob Eastaway for today's puzzle:

Yesterday's answers:  
2 Goals Scored by Romania Against England  
40 All for Deuce in Tennis  
6 More Months from Today's Date to Christmas Day.

The answer to today's puzzle will be given on Monday.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3647 Friday 26 June



### ACROSS

- Shore indentation (3)
- Itinerary (5)
- Dead-end (3-3-3)
- Lure (4)
- Cosmetic application (6,6)
- Contusion (6)
- Type of hat (6)
- Like Bountiful? (12)
- Region (4)
- No longer in use (8)
- Detested (5)
- Excessively (3)

### DOWN

- Swagger (7)
- Sing in Swiss style (5)
- Go over main points again (5)
- Not discouraged (7)
- Select group (5)
- Take for granted (6)
- Vague (7)
- Object of irrational devotion (6)
- Italian dish (7)
- Planet (5)
- Shun (5)
- Israeli resort (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Haydn, 4 Sick (Hide and seek), 8 Squall, 9 Prowl, 10 Rain, 11 Per annum, 12 Jiggery-pokery, 15 Instance, 17 Epee, 20 Expert, 21 Onerous, 22 Lead, 23 Lizz, DOWN: 1 Housing, 2 Yolk, 3 Nursery school, 4 Soprano, 5 Clown, 6 Tar, 7 Clumsy, 12 Joiner, 13 Exalted, 14 Exploit, 16 Swede, 18 Easy, 19 Lens.

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

### PICK OF THE DAY

WHILE Danny DeVito (right) has always got the credit he deserves as an actor, he remains underrated as a director; his debut, *Throw Momma from the Train*, was a delicious black comedy. He is in similar darkly humorous territory for *The War of the Roses* (8pm Sky Movies Gold), a memorable account of a once-idyllic marriage that goes badly wrong. Michael Douglas

and Kathleen Turner star alongside DeVito. Crime-solving has been revolutionised by the use of DNA finger-printing. Now just a single hair or a drop of blood can be enough to convict a criminal. "Double Helix", tonight's episode of *Forensic Detectives* (9pm Discovery), brings the seemingly all-conquering technique in for questioning.



JAMES RAMPTON

Rockies (2042336), 7.30 Disaster (7267882), 8.00 The Barfoot Bushman (317220), 9.00 Forensic Detectives See Pick of the Day (317084), 10.00 Extreme Machines (31071), 11.00 A Century of Warfare (256713), 12.00 First Flights (300350), 12.30 Disaster (894640), 1.00 Forensic Detectives (355447), 2.00 Close.

SKY SPORTS 1  
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (31742), 7.25 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (23735), 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (249350), 9.30 Racing News (7788), 9.40 Aerobics - Oz Style (8169), 9.50 Formula Three Racing (9207), 10.00 Dancing World Ten Dance (5583), 11.00 Sports Unlimited (348702), 5.00 Dancin' World Ten Dance (5583), 6.00 Inside the PGA Tour (83773), 6.30 The Winning Post (46853), 9.00 Motor Racing: Italy (81033), 10.00 Ford Golf USA - Motorola Western Open (908725), 12.00 Inside the Senior PGA Tour (81478), 12.30 Sports Centre (85602), 12.45 Motor Racing: Italy (85600), 1.45 Sky Sports Centre (82314), 2.00 Golf USA (858027), 4.00 Watersports World (93939), 5.00 Rebel Sports (939485), 5.30 - 6.00 Wild Spirits (815447).

SKY SPORTS 2  
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (31742), 7.25 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (23735), 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (249350), 9.30 Racing News (7788), 9.40 Aerobics - Oz Style (8169), 9.50 Formula Three Racing (9207), 10.00 Dancing World Ten Dance (5583), 11.00 Sports Unlimited (348702), 5.00 Dancin' World Ten Dance (5583), 6.00 Inside the PGA Tour (83773), 6.30 The Winning Post (46853), 9.00 Motor Racing: Italy (81033), 10.00 Ford Golf USA - Motorola Western Open (908725), 12.00 Inside the Senior PGA Tour (81478), 12.30 Sports Centre (85602), 12.45 Motor Racing: Italy (85600), 1.45 Sky Sports Centre (82314), 2.00 Golf USA (858027), 4.00 Watersports World (93939), 5.00 Rebel Sports (939485), 5.30 - 6.00 Wild Spirits (815447).

SKY 1  
7.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (2659), 7.30 Games World (84220), 7.45 The Simpsons (4405), 8.15 The Oprah Winfrey Show (319423), 9.00 Hotel (87065), 10.00 Another World (93978), 11.00 Days of Our Lives (4242), 12.00 Married with Children (46007), 12.30 M\*A\*S\*H (268720), 12.45 The Special K Collection (492222), 1.00 Gaudilo (471897), 1.15 The Special K Collection (471897), 1.30 The Special K Collection (492222), 1.45 The Special K Collection (492222), 2.00 The Special K Collection (492222), 2.15 The Special K Collection (492222), 2.30 The Special K Collection (492222), 2.45 The Special K Collection (492222), 3.00 The Special K Collection (492222), 3.15 The Special K Collection (492222), 3.30 The Special K Collection (492222), 3.45 The Special K Collection (492222), 4.00 The Special K Collection (492222), 4.15 The Special K Collection (492222), 4.30 The Special K Collection (492222), 4.45 The Special K Collection (492222), 5.00 The Special K Collection (492222), 5.15 The Special K Collection (492222), 5.30 The Special K Collection (492222), 5.45 The Special K Collection (492222), 6.00 The Special K Collection (492222), 6.15 The Special K Collection (492222), 6.30 The Special K Collection (492222), 6.45 The Special K Collection (



